

# SUU Field Services NEWSLETTER

*College of Education and Human Development*

April 2021



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Visit our Student Teaching [Web page](#) for Electronic forms, Handbook, Professional Development/Career opportunities, and PPAT resources.  
[Spring 2021 Student Teacher Responsibilities Checklist](#) for Students, Mentor Teachers, and Supervisors to help you keep track of deadlines.

## Congratulations Graduates!



**Thank you for all your hard work and efforts as a Student Teacher and to complete the PPAT! Wahoo!**

## Student Teaching Celebrations!

**Saturday, April 24 10:00 a.m.**

Come celebrate with a hike up [Red Hollow Trail](#) (1 mile each way) at the base of Cedar Canyon! Enjoy making memories with one last challenge in the beautiful red rock canyon alongside your fellow teachers. Enjoy a well deserved continental breakfast after hiking.



**Thursday, April 29 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

Join us in a final celebration at our

## **Thank You Student Teachers and Supervisors Picnic**

Canyon Park (East side)

Food, fun, games, and a chance to share your best and craziest student teaching stories with each other.

**Group pictures will be taken at 5:00 p.m.**

## BLOG Article Review

Check out this blog from TeacherVision for some **excellent advice** as a first year teacher!

**Tips & Advice for First-Year and New Teachers! 4 Mistakes New Teachers Make (and How to Avoid Them), etc.**

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## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Do I have to do a Mid-term Evaluation for my 6 week placement in SPED or Math?** No, you will just have your mentor teacher complete 2 observations and Final Evaluation. Your Education Supervisor will do 1 or 2 more observations and Final Evaluation.

**How do I know if my Mentor Teacher has done the Final Evaluation?** If they completed the evaluation through Qualtrics, you will receive an email with their evaluation. If they used our old form, please collect and give to your Ed. Supervisor. You should review that evaluation with both your mentor teacher and Supervisors.

**What am I going to do now that I have completed the PPAT?** If you passed Task 4 with an average of 3's on your responses and have completed all other requests from your supervisor, take a nap.

**Should I keep any copies of my paperwork?** It is a good idea to keep copies of final evaluations. This is what the principals will ask for when interviewing.

**The school I am applying to teach at next year is asking for a letter from SUU to verify that I have completed my student teaching and that I will be recommended for licensure with USBE. Who do I contact?** You may contact Katie Guest ([katiegroves@suu.edu](mailto:katiegroves@suu.edu)) for that letter.

## **My Student Teaching is Complete.....Now What? When will I receive my teaching certificate?**

- 1. First of all...Congratulations** on completing your student teaching! All the paperwork required is being gathered by your Supervisor and being sent to me. If anything is missing, I'll get a hold of you and let you know. If you don't hear from me about your file, you can assume everything is good to go! I go through all your files and separate what goes in your permanent file from what goes in the temporary file (the temp file I am required to keep here for a few years). I also use this time to verify that you have passed your student teaching—that means a passing score on your PPAT, all days are verified, passing scores on your evaluations, and a passing grade (80% or higher) in our Canvas course. I will enter your student teaching grades by April 29. All student teaching grades are strictly Pass/Fail grades—no letter grades. Once grades are final, the registrars' office verifies everything is complete and posts your degree.
- 2. Once degrees are posted, Katie Guest ([katiegroves@suu.edu](mailto:katiegroves@suu.edu))** makes sure everything is done, tests are passed, coursework is complete, etc. She then uses that bright orange application you filled out as part of your student teaching application packet to recommend you for a license to the USBE. After those recommendations are made, Katie will send you an email telling you this has been done. You can then go to [www.utah.gov/teachers](http://www.utah.gov/teachers), click on University Recommendations, put in your information, pay your licensing fee and print out your Level One Teaching License! Be sure to save the pdf of your license and print out several copies—if you lose it, you will be charged \$25 for a replacement. Some districts require you submit it with an application packet, others ask you to submit a copy of your license after being hired.
- 3. Now the job searches begin!** If you haven't already, gather letters of recommendation from Mentor Teachers and Supervisors. Start watching the websites for the districts you wish to teach in. Watch the SUU jobs for TBirds site: When we get any announcements about job openings, they get posted here. <https://suu.joinhandshake.com/login> If you get a job, please let us know. We love to brag about you all—and we are building a map with pins of where our graduates are teaching across the state and the country. Finally, Let me know if you need anything! [laurengraves@suu.edu](mailto:laurengraves@suu.edu)

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## [NEW TEACHERS: Thriving in Your First Years as a Teacher](#)

**Six realistic, low-stress steps you can take to improve your teaching in the hectic early years of your career.** By [Andrea Marshbank](#) December 22, 2017

It is a universal truth that early career teachers are overwhelmed. Between classroom management issues, lesson plans, and grading, we're oftentimes drowning. With all the pressure to simply survive our first few years of teaching, doing anything else in the name of improvement may seem impossible. As a second-year teacher, I have days when I find myself treating life's necessities, like sleeping, as if they were optional activities.

We want to become better teachers, but it can be exhausting. These are low-stress, realistic, and enjoyable ideas that you can use to squeeze being a better educator into your hectic new teacher life.

### **DEVELOPING AS A TEACHER IN THE EARLY YEARS**

**Write reflectively:** Simply by writing about your classroom experiences, you're already developing yourself as an educator. Writing is widely recognized as a tool to [alleviate stress](#) and [manage anxiety](#). It's important for teachers to write as a way to vent about stressful days, grow from mistakes, and appreciate successes. Challenge yourself to write for 10 minutes each day. I don't pressure myself to write well—I just write. Whether you invest in a journal or start a blog, the act of writing is worth your time.

**Record things you want to change:** Create a document specifically designed to record your mistakes and plans for improvement. Whenever a lesson plan goes awry, jot down a note about how to make it better in the future. My own document is entitled "Things to Do Better for Next Year" and includes notes about remaking assessments, adjusting my grading categories, and other fixes that will make my next classroom experience better. Not only does this give you guidance for future lessons, but you now have a comprehensive list of items to accomplish over the summer.

**Observe other teachers:** New teachers are often required to observe veterans, but we shouldn't stop there. Even after you fulfill your observation obligations, make time to email different teachers in your building that you admire and let them know you want to stop by their classrooms to see them in action. Most teachers will be glad to work with you and to talk afterward about your thoughts and observations. We get better at teaching when we talk productively about our practice.

**Learn a new skill:** Making time in your life to learn about something you're interested in can help remind you what your students encounter every day in your classroom: As much as it can be exciting to learn something new, it's also scary. It's important that we regularly look for chances to experience life the way our students do, so that we can be empathetic to their situation. For me, it was learning how to sing. After months of voice lessons, I auditioned for the local theater's summer musical and made the ensemble cast.

**Take charge of your PD:** There are many ways you can be proactive in your professional development (PD). Social media websites like Twitter and Pinterest provide an entire network of teachers seeking discussions and other opportunities to connect. On Twitter, the [National Councils of Teachers of English](#) hosted an educational chat on mentor texts where I learned about using [New Sentences](#) from The New York Times as a tool to help students analyze literature. A simple way to take control of your PD is to read books on pedagogy. Ask a few of your coworkers to join you and start an informal PD book club. Any teacher would benefit from reading **The Growth Mindset Coach** by [Annie Brock and Heather Hundley](#). This book provides an excellent month-by-month guide on how to create an atmosphere of improvement in your classroom. Another classic way to develop

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professionally is to find a nearby education conference and interact with other teachers. Listening to inspiring keynote speakers and being involved in breakout sessions is a great way to re-energize and learn. When I went to the Mid-America Association for Computers in Education conference in Manhattan, Kansas, I learned about single-point rubrics, using memes as short writing assignments, and the glorious design capabilities of [Canva](#).

**Be kind to yourself:** Practicing self-care is essential to your continual improvement as a teacher. If you're not taking care of yourself, you cannot be the teacher your students need. By making good choices that lead to a healthy mind and body, you'll enable yourself to have a happier teaching experience.

Ways to accomplish this include eating healthy, exercising, and doing activities that you enjoy outside of education. Yes, grading is important, but so is spending time with family, watching that new show, and walking the dog. To keep my head above water, I do guided meditations each morning using an app on my phone. This calms me down and lets me start each day fresh.

When trying to be a better teacher, the key is to not be hard on yourself. Teaching is a tricky and time-consuming job. No one has perfected it yet, and you won't be the first. While improvement should always be somewhere on your radar, it doesn't need to be a massive overhaul of your livelihood. Try even just one of these ideas for self-improvement.

