

Hands up!

Who is ready for Practicum 2024?



It's that time of the year again! We hope that you are all as excited as we are for the upcoming school-based practicum from 15th July to 06th September 2024. Whether it is your first practicum or your final one, it is absolutely fine to experience a mix of emotions before your first day! You have worked hard to prepare for your practicum and with the support of your mentor teacher and your peers, together with a good night's sleep (every night), you will be

a success. Remember, you are there to make a contribution to the teaching and learning and enrichment activities of your school. We hope that this newsletter will provide you with a few encouraging words and motivation for the practicum period. We know you will return in September with memories of your personal and professional growth and how you made a positive difference to learners' lives. We wish you all the best.



Dr Chrischar Rock
B.Ed Practical Learning
Coordinator



Dr Bernard Rhodes
PGCE Coordinator

A few wise words from our Acting Vice-Dean, Prof Nhlanhla Mpofu

Dear Student Teachers

As you embark on your professional learning journey, I am thrilled to welcome you to this transformative phase of your education. It is my pleasure to share with you the excitement that lies ahead as you prepare to embark on your teaching practicum. This newsletter serves as a valuable resource, offering guidance, inspiration, and encouragement to help you make the most of this incredible opportunity to grow as educators.

Teaching practicum is a pivotal moment in your journey towards becoming exceptional teachers. It is a time when theory meets practice, where the knowledge and skills you have acquired throughout your studies come alive in the real-world context of the classroom. This hands-on experience will be invaluable in shaping your teaching philosophy, honing your instructional techniques, and developing the confidence necessary to thrive in the dynamic world of education.

During your practicum, you will have the chance to work closely with experienced mentor teachers who will provide guidance, support, and feedback. They are your partners in this transformative process, ready to share their wisdom, challenge your assumptions, and help you navigate the complexities of the classroom. Embrace their mentorship and approach this opportunity with an open mind and a willingness to learn. Remember, each classroom is unique, and through your experiences, you will gain insights into the diverse needs and strengths of your future students.

As you enter the classroom as the teacher, you will undoubtedly face challenges and moments of self-reflection. It is in these moments that you will discover the immense growth that comes from grappling with the realities of teaching. **Embrace these challenges as opportunities for growth, for it is through them that you will develop resilience, adaptability, and creativity—the very qualities that make great teachers.**

Remember, you are not alone on this journey.

Your fellow student teachers are alongside you, each with their own unique perspectives, experiences, and aspirations. Engage in meaningful dialogue, share your triumphs and struggles, and support one another. Collaborative learning is a powerful tool that will enhance your growth and broaden your understanding of the teaching profession.

Finally, remember to celebrate your progress and achievements.

Your journey as a student teacher is a remarkable one, and it is important to acknowledge the milestones you reach along the way. Celebrate the small victories—the connections you make with your students, the “a-ha” moments when a concept clicks, and the growth you witness in yourself as an emerging professional.

I encourage you to embrace the excitement that comes with your teaching practicum. Recognise the immense privilege it is to guide and inspire the next generation of learners. Your impact will be profound, and your dedication to this noble profession will shape lives and contribute to the betterment of society.

On behalf of the entire faculty, I extend my warmest wishes for a successful and fulfilling teaching practicum. Embrace the challenges, seize the opportunities, and let your passion for teaching shine through every interaction with your students. **The journey ahead is filled with endless possibilities, and I have no doubt that you will rise to the occasion, becoming the exceptional educators you are destined to be.**



Prof Nhlanhla Mpofu

Putting theory into **practice**...



**Thank you
to all our
assessors!**

During practicum you will need to draw on your knowledge base for teaching and learning and all your subject-specific practical strategies for quality teaching you have acquired during your studies. Reflect on your microteaching experience, your observations in schools, your

social impact and outreach work to ensure that you design and deliver lessons with learners that are engaging and stimulating. Remember your assessment for learning (AfL) strategies to make sure that you know learning has taken place!

What is in your teacher toolbox?

Our student assistant, Tahlia Volschenk, went on a little hunt to find out what some people have in their toolkits to survive and thrive during the upcoming practicum...

A 1kg jar of coffee (Luke, B.Ed IV)

I'm adding mindfulness exercises to stay calm and make learning fun during my practicum. (Miguella, B.Ed IV)

Assessment for Learning techniques (Nadia, B.Ed III)

My daily planner (Unathi, PGCE)

Packing a good lunch for every day (Gina, B.Ed IV)



Definitely my redbull and philosophy of education notes as a reminder of what I am there to achieve! (Mache, PGCE)

Prioritising my emotional wellbeing (too many to mention...) My counters from the counting box maths project (Kira, B.Ed II)

Glue and pens! (Gabriella, B.Ed III)

All my classroom management skills I can use (Krishna, B.Ed IV)

SOME TIPS AND ADVICE

from your lecturers...



Ms Chambers

"As you prepare to launch into Teaching Practicum 2024, remember that this is your opportunity to embrace a growth mindset and learn from every experience. This is YOUR learning journey. Go and make us proud!"



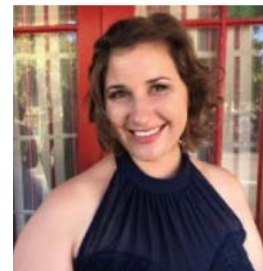
Dr Botha

"With teaching comes great responsibility": Acknowledge this responsibility as a teacher-in-the-making and make a difference in the lives of the learners by ensuring your learners feel valued, safe, and supported within the classroom environment."



Ms Hendrickse

"Approach every day as an opportunity to teach, to learn, to grow and to make a difference in the lives of our children."



Ms Nel

"Be consistent, children feel safe when there is consistency."



Dr Bishop-Swart

"Daily classroom routines are as important as your own daily wellbeing routines. Just like you encourage and motivate your learners with positive reinforcement, make time to encourage and motivate yourself."



Dr Rinquest

"Deep breaths and calming strategies - Your secret weapons for a joyful and resilient practicum"

Ideas for helping you through those tough days

Positive thinking is not all rainbows and unicorns. It is not about magically fixing all problems.

Positive thinking is a tool that helps us manage stress and stay solution-focused in challenging times. It might not be perfect, but it is powerful.



Consider positive affirmations
to get you through each week....



Build a good mentoring relationship

Part of a successful practicum is establishing a good working relationship with your mentor teacher. Here are some tips to make sure you are a super mentee.

Be Early, Not on Time:

Punctuality is extremely important as teacher. When you're early, you're on time; when you're on time, you're late. Show your mentor teacher your level of commitment to the job. Arrive early to get organized and greet the learners as they enter.

Smile:

A lot. At everyone. Others will react to you in a more positive way if you appear friendly and approachable. Smile at your learners, other teachers, parents, office staff, and the principal. Be Prepared: Always be prepared for the next day when you leave the night before. You never know what may happen or come up that keeps you from making copies or finalizing plans in the morning.

Respect Confidentiality:

Don't use learner names in public conversations or in emails. When you need to discuss a student, seek out the person you need to talk with and have a private face to face conversation.

Show Initiative:

If you see something that needs to be done, do it! Don't wait to be asked. Help learners immediately, this shows you are ready and willing to be a teacher. Learners don't always raise their hands. Look for those who need help.

Be Proactive:

If you have an idea for a lesson and want to try something, let your mentor teacher know! They love when you want to try something new. They want to learn too!

Be Prepared to Make Mistakes:

You're learning and mistakes will happen. You can burst into tears or take it in stride but take note of what went wrong, why it went wrong, and how you might improve things for the next time.



Dress Like a Professional:

Be the best dressed one there! Low cut tops and short skirts aren't for teaching. A good rule of thumb is, touch your head, touch your toes, anything shows, change your clothes.

Build Relationships Through Collaboration:

Remember you are part of a system. Get to know everyone in your school and build relationships with them. Work hard and be the person every teacher wants to recommend for the next open position in their building.

Enjoy the Experience:

Enjoy your learners; they will make you smile every day. Enjoy your colleagues; they are wonderful role models. Enjoy the experience; it is something you'll remember your entire teaching career.

Take Care of Yourself:

Make sure that you are getting enough rest, eating well, and exercising. Wash your hands more often because you will be coming into contact with more people (and germs!) than you are used to. Once you have been teaching a while, your immunities seem to build up. Before then, don't let the stress of student teaching wear you down!

PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE



PRACTICAL LEARNING



ALL THE BEST FOR PRACTICUM 2024!