

Practicum is a capstone experience where NWC students are placed with a mentor teacher for 50 hours of field experience over a 10-week period. Practicum students plan lessons, teach, gather evidence of learning, and reflect on both their teaching and their students' learning. This experience allows future educators to connect coursework with real classroom practice while developing professional skills.

I am completing my practicum in a kindergarten classroom at Westside Elementary with Mrs. Mollett. Throughout this experience, my focus has been on the importance of building relationships in the classroom. By working closely with students in small groups, one-on-one interactions, and daily classroom activities, I have learned that strong relationships create a positive and supportive learning environment. Through observation and participation, I have seen how trust, communication, and consistency help students feel safe, engaged, and ready to learn. Building relationships with students has also supported my classroom management and encouraged student confidence and participation. This practicum experience has shown me that meaningful connections are essential to both student success and effective teaching, shaping my approach as a future educator.