

My teaching experience

The spring semester of 2026 allowed me to spend time observing, participating and teaching in a 1st grade classroom at Parkside Elementary School. This opportunity helped me to see the daily operations of a typical classroom and experience working both in large and small group scenarios. During this time I worked under Mr. Felton, helping give feedback during writing time and operating a station for math intervention. In math time I honed counting skills and strategies, reviewed word problems and double factor equations, and played games focusing on different addition and subtraction formulas. I also had the opportunity to build two lesson plans of my own. One was based on story problems and one involved working with base 10 blocks.

This time in class showed me the value of student/teacher relationships and how important they are to a classroom environment. Even in the short time I was able to build relationships, I was able to work more effectively with students as we strengthened that bond. Mr. Felton is able to effectively run the classroom due to the time he has put in to get to know the students and show them that he cares about not only their education, but each student as an individual. Children will work better and push harder to succeed when they know there are people out there that believe in them and are rooting for their success. I plan to place high value on student/teacher relationships in my future classroom.