

Meghan Hudedpohl's Student Teaching Experience

Hello everyone! My name is Meghan Hudepohl, and I was honored to be the recipient of an Esther H. Strickland Student Teaching Grant. The grant was a huge support to me in the completion of my third-grade student teaching placement at Clifton Area Neighborhood School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

My time in this field placement grew me not only as a teacher, but as a person. I developed great relationships with my class, and it was incredible to watch their growth throughout the school year. One student I worked with one-on-one nearly every day improved her reading score by two grade levels by the conclusion of the school year, and seeing the pride she had in herself is what solidified my love for this profession.

My amazing mentor teacher not only gave me the support I needed to improve as an educator, but also gave me the freedom to try new ideas, and, sometimes even more importantly, make mistakes and learn from them.

I got to be a part of many fun memories with my students, especially including our field trip to a local immersive park where they got to see what life was like in the 1800s, and a field trip to see *SpongeBob the Musical*. I also got to participate in spirit week and support them at their Fine Arts Showcase. Feeling so involved in the school culture has me so excited to start my full-time teaching position next year and continue to be a part of what makes school fun!

This scholarship was invaluable to my experience as a student teacher, especially since it gave me the financial freedom to pursue one of my greatest passions: special education. Due to my love for both elementary and special education, I made the decision to pursue a final semester of school this summer to add on an additional intervention specialist license to my preschool to fifth grade license. This license will also allow me to start my position that I have accepted for next year as a third to fifth grade intervention specialist at Seven Hills Schools in Cincinnati. This grant made this possible by giving me the ability to finance my additional education. I am eternally grateful for your organization's support of my career, and your generosity in naming me as a recipient.