

Dear Parents and Guardians,

For more than a decade, State College Area School District and Penn State University have been involved in a partnership, one aim of which is to provide high quality teacher education experiences for education majors (<http://www.ed.psu.edu>). A student teacher from this program, which we refer to as an intern, may be in your child's classroom. Each intern spends the entire school year learning and teaching under the supervision of the classroom teacher and a university based supervisor.

Research and practice in teacher education suggests that a powerful influence on learning to teach is the ability to analyze one's own teaching practices. At Penn State, we are exploring cutting edge strategies for reflection and self-analysis. One approach involves the use of video. Throughout the year, interns will be asked to videotape their lessons periodically. This video will be used with individual interns for self-improvement, as well as with other interns and veteran teachers for professional development purposes. Because the lessons will involve instruction, some children will appear in the videos. If you prefer that your child not appear in the video that will be used for this purpose, we ask that you contact the classroom teacher and/or building principal and inform them of your wishes.



Interns also will be asked to collect evidence of their development as professionals. Some of this evidence will be used as part of their teaching portfolios, which are web-based. Evidence may include lesson plans, photographs from the classroom, and possibly short video clips of their teaching. In cases where images of children are involved, no identifying information will be included. If you prefer that images of your child not appear in intern portfolios, we ask that you contact the classroom teacher and/or building principal and inform them of your wishes.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and support in the development of the next generation of professional educators. If you have further questions, please contact the principal at your child's school.