Dr. Jacqueline Hansen (Asst. Prof.), Dr. Sharon Gill (Assoc. Prof.), and Mrs. Penny Perkins (Instructor) met to plan for the Spring 2004 Reading Block. All team members were in attendance.

I. Course Assignments

We will be following a new reading block schedule during the spring semester. Each of us will be teaching two sections of the same course: Jacqueline will teach language arts, Sharon will teach literature, and Penny will teach reading. We feel this will promote consistent delivery of the courses, plus we will all have an opportunity to become acquainted with all of the students. Thank you, Dr. Watkins!!!!!!

II. Field Experiences

A. Students will be participating in field experiences at Murray and Benton Elementary Schools. We discussed which dates would work best. Penny has since confirmed these dates with Janice Vaughn.
B. Students who take one course will participate in field experiences on March 1st and 3rd. Students who take two courses will participate on March 1, 3, 5, and 8. Those who take all three courses will participate March 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, and 12.
C. Students will be grouped with peers who have similar schedules.
D. Students will go to Benton and Murray Elementary Schools on the same dates. At least one reading block instructor will be present at each school site each date to supervise students’ field experiences. Instructors will rotate between schools so that each instructor will spend an equal amount of time with both groups of students at both sites.
E. Field experience orientation will take place Wednesday, February 4th.
F. Participating Benton and Murray elementary teachers will choose a content area topic or genre of literature for students’ thematic units. Furthermore, teachers will select one writing product (i.e. informational articles, personal narratives, etc.).
G. Each student team will create one thematic unit centering upon the chosen topic and writing product. Perkins will teach them how to use Kidspiration to create the unit organizer of unit goals, sequence sub-topics, and connections to state and national standards. Teams will create a culminating lesson plan.
H. Teams will create a book display (instead of a bulletin board) as part of their units.
I. Each team member will create five unique lesson plans related to the specified team topics. Students will teach the content area using reading, writing, literature, and language arts activities. Plans will connect with the KY Student Learner
Goals, Academic Expectations, Core Content, Program of Study, and IRA/NCTE standards.

J. Students will teach small groups of students within the classroom. They may conduct set induction and culminating activities as a team if they wish.

K. Thematic units are due before students go out on field experiences. This will ensure that students are well-prepared for their classroom activities in advance. Units will be graded by all three instructors using a rubric.

III. Reading Block Calendar

To scaffold students’ team efforts, we will be providing team time on the following dates. The number of dates might vary based upon student need.

- Wed., Jan. 28: Unit/Lesson Design (Hansen primary instructor)
- Wed., Feb. 4: Field Experience Orientation at Benton and Murray Elementary
- Fri., Feb. 6: Team Time (work on units)
- Fri., Feb. 13: Team Time
- Mon., Feb. 23: Field Experience Preparation Session/ Team Time
- Fri., Feb. 27: Thematic Unit Due
- March 1-12: Field Experiences
- March 15-19: MSU Spring Break ☺
- Mon., Mar. 22: Celebration and Share Fair (fave lessons, books, research)
- Fri., Mar. 26: Field Experience Portfolios due
- Wed., Apr. 28: Formative e-portfolios (Hansen)/ professional development logs (Gill)

IV. Content Responsibilities

Because so many topics overlap, we designated lead instructors for each topic:

A. Content Areas and Activities:
   1. Gill: Literature circles, literary elements, reading stories, storytelling
   2. Perkins: Emergent literacy, shared reading kit

B. Shared Assignments:
   1. Gill: students attend two professional meetings; summarize and apply to future classrooms; begin a professional development log
   2. Perkins and Hansen: professional readings/research (books, journal, website)

We are looking forward to a positive, productive semester!

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jacqueline Hansen
Elementary Program Coordinator