



# BETTER TOGETHER

Muncie Community Schools and Ball State University  
Office of Teacher Education Services and Clinical Practice



BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY



## Partnership Perspective

The **Ball State University College of Health** is finding new ways to make the partnership between the university and Muncie Community Schools much more meaningful. Under their new relationship to **Grissom Elementary**, The College of Health's Social Work department has placed their first student in Grissom for a semester long practicum. Working with the school's counselor, **Jessica Johnson**, this undergraduate in Social Work is shadowing her as she teaches classroom lessons, works with small groups of students and meets individually with students as needed. This semester, **Shelby Weathersby** is taking full advantage of her opportunity to be immersed in the school and community as she assists with Social Emotional Learning groups and teaches students in classrooms. Teaching topics range from responsible use of social media, to interpersonal relationship skills. In addition, Shelby is planning a lesson for Black History Month on social justice for 5th grade students.

Their days are packed as they move from large groups to small groups and meet with students, before school, after school and during lunchtime! Shelby has seen first-hand how busy and how vital a role the school counselor plays as she works with Ms. Johnson.

*"(Ms. Johnson) does a spectacular job of explaining her processes with me and we have great discussions. I think the work we do with these kids is incredibly meaningful and will have a lasting impact."* Shelby Weathersby

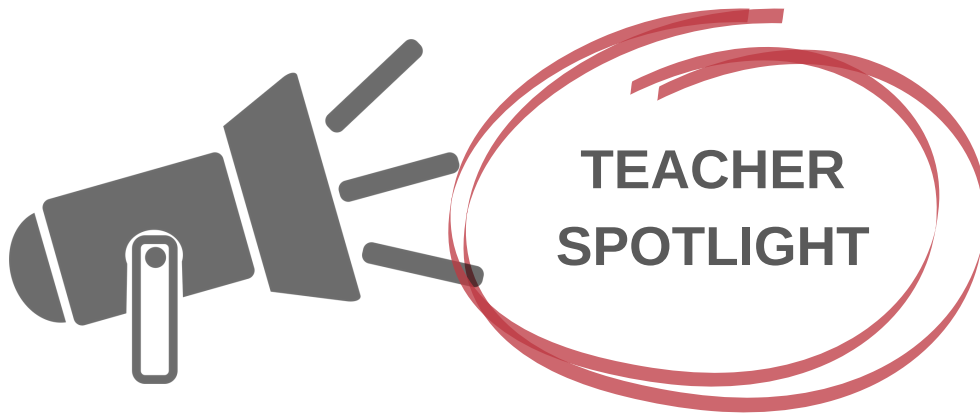
Shelby grew up in southern Indiana and had some early experience working in camps and volunteering in diverse communities. Those experiences gave her a passion for helping people, mental health resources, advocacy and social justice. The lack of mental health resources available in her own schools growing up is what initially interested her in the field of social work. She recognizes the value of those resources and the children and families that they touch. All of these factors combine to bring her to the amazing learning experience she is enjoying at Grissom

*"Having another positive adult/mentor for our students has been wonderful. I believe it goes without saying that there can be many things going on in a school at one time, so being able to have Shelby, who not only cares about our students, but is also patient, empathetic, compassionate, and flexible, has been such a positive experience. She brings enthusiasm, great ideas, and a can-do attitude with her, and the students recognize this and have been drawn to her. We are happy."*



Ball State faculty can propose an academic project in conjunction with Muncie Community Schools that includes research and work in safe/healthy schools, curriculum and instruction, cultural competency and community, family engagement and a host of other possibilities. What great connections across our community!

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW?**



A DYNAMIC Duo at **South View Elementary School** are truly making a difference in the lives of students! **Ra-Chelle Spearman** and **Brittany Dozier** team up each week as Reading Interventionists to work with small groups of students helping them to strengthen their reading skills as they grow from “learning to read in younger grades TO reading to learn in older grades”. This keeps them moving throughout the school day as they work with students at all grade levels individually and in small groups. They really “bought in” to the South View “it takes a village” mentality and collaborate effectively with teachers across the school to surround students with a trusted circle of support.

*“I love working at South View because of the family-oriented working environment. We have fearless, gritty district and building level leaders who strike a good balance between boldness and humility.”* Ra’Chelle Spearman

While the pair are, indeed, a dynamic duo, they help make up the unique tapestry of dedicated professional educators, parents and community partners who call South View home and are committed to meeting the educational goals of the school’s students. With the help of these dedicated partners, they are beginning to realize their vision for maximizing hands-on learning experiences and truly engaging student learners by placing them squarely in the middle of thoughtful planning. Their desire to see students grow in character and academics as they are equipped for real life and learning can be achieved as they bring necessary resources and a dedicated team together.

*“I am an advocate for these students; someone who shows up every day and works for them.”* Brittany Dozier



North View teachers, students and pre-service teachers join forces to work on literacy and mathematics goals with elementary students!

**Dr. Rebecca Brown, PDS Liaison** at **North View Elementary School**, has been coordinating efforts with **Principal Heidi White** and **Master Teacher Aiesha Allen** to improve foundational and critical mathematical thinking in addition to supporting continued growth in literacy skills, which were identified as school-wide goals last summer. Additionally, the three benefit from each other’s professional experiences by serving as thought-partners, combining resources, and serving on several committee together.

Weekly faculty cluster groups with Master Teacher Aiesha Allen have focused on gathering and analyzing data, using data to drive instruction, and identifying areas for continued support. As faculty engage in purposeful identification processes, information is shared with Dr. Brown to ensure alignment with the Ball State Pre-Service Teacher expectations while working at North View. When needed, she also assists with creating and delivering professional development to North View faculty.

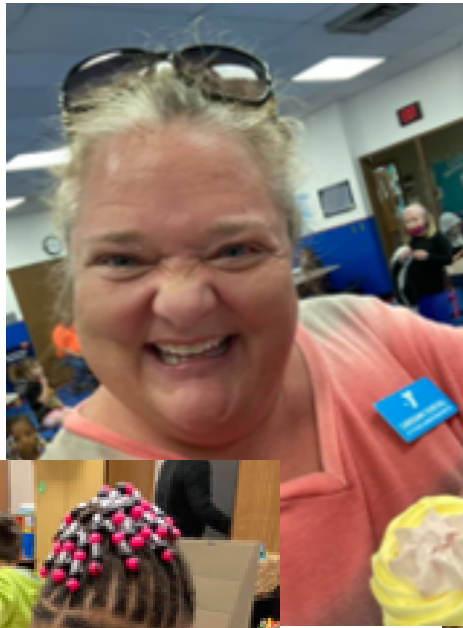
“Every week, I make a point to speak with Aiesha about these meetings so that I can better understand how the Ball State Pre-Service Teachers can be a part of the solution. Not only does this ensure an alignment with each grade and their expectations but it also provides an authentic experience for Ball State teacher candidates. It demonstrates for our Pre-Service Teachers the need for flexibility when teaching, in addition to modeling professional collaboration.”

In the Fall of 2021, North View classroom teachers and Rebecca Brown’s pre-service EDEL/EDRD 300 block teacher candidates joined together for some targeted phonics and guided reading instruction. Participating teachers were able to divide their classrooms into small groups to accommodate this approach to targeted instruction. Ball State teacher candidates received skills-oriented instruction from Master Teacher Aiesha Allen prior to planning their own lessons using student data to drive their instruction.

In Spring 2022, Ball State Pre-Service Teachers have returned to North View for the MICC immersive program, supporting learners in both mathematics and literacy. Teaching is again focused on the mathematics and literacy school goals, so each university teacher candidate is receiving instruction specific to their grade-level and class. On-site 3 full days a week, Ball State PreServiceTeachers and North View Mentor Teachers are developing professional relationships that benefit both sides. Under the guidance of their mentor teachers, Ball State students are learning to gather their own data and use it to drive instruction in multiple subjects.







The 21/22 YMCA **Grissom Gold** (Grissom-Out of School-Literacy-and Development) after school Literacy Program has transformed into a new model for after school programming in the Muncie Community Schools. The goal of the program is to continue the student's learning day by targeting the areas of literacy, social/emotional well- being, and fitness/health.

Grissom Gold Students learn to Work Hard, Play Hard, and to Never Give Up! This holistic program focuses on Literacy and the well- being of the whole child and makes learning fun by respecting the individuality of each student! This year MCS adopted the LitART Reading Program for use at Grissom Gold, which allows for students to work at their reading level, build confidence, and to continue to achieve reading at their grade level and beyond.

Family Engagement is also a part of Grissom Gold. Even in the midst of the pandemic we have safely had monthly family engagements including: Family Literacy Night, Charlie Reading Challenge Games, and a skating party. This work helps us to engage with students and their families to keep them reading together on a daily basis. With the support of Ball State education students, we were able to distribute hundreds of free books to Grissom's elementary students as they worked individually and in small groups with them.

A partnership between **MCS** and **YMCA** continues to grow and allows for everyone to work together for the betterment of the students. Grissom Gold Director, Carrieann Churchill, works hard to create partnerships between the Grissom school staff, Grissom Gold staff, and families to provide the connections students need to be successful.

## WHO IS OTES-CP?

## MISSION STATEMENT

## OTES-CP STAFF

To foster a professional learning community within our sphere of influence that provides a dynamic network of research and professional development. We do this by identifying and partnering with those educational entities, which provide our students with vital clinical field experiences key to developing appropriate knowledge, skills and dispositions proven to have a positive impact on P12 learning.

Jon Dee-Director  
Sari Harris-Assistant Director  
Shelby Harris-Office Coordinator  
Chloe Thompson-Secretary  
McKenzie Criswell-Field Experience  
Coordinator  
Amy Gough-Post-Bac Licensing Coordinator  
Jane Thomas-Licensing Advisor

## CONNECT WITH US!

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