

Dear Mentor Teacher:

As part of the Northwestern University Teacher Education Program, \_\_\_\_\_ is asked to videotape her/his teaching several times during the student teaching experience. As you may know, looking at video is one of the recommended approaches to professional development as teachers learn more about themselves, their support for students to achieve, and collaboration with peers.

Student work and/or video will be selected by the participating teacher candidate for discussion in the student teaching seminar. Discussion will be limited to this class, Northwestern teacher supervisors, and the seminar instructor. Candidates are then required to choose at least one slice of video to include in their Professional Digital Portfolios. We see this process as extremely valuable for prospective teachers. They learn a great deal by observing themselves in the classroom and discussing how they teach and why they make certain instructional decisions.

We hope that you will assist your student teacher in securing the proper permissions to make this taping possible. If there are students who cannot be videotaped, we hope that arrangements can be made for the tape to avoid those students and focus on the Northwestern teacher candidate.

Thank you for your time. Please contact me if you have questions or suggestions for this endeavor at Northwestern.

Sincerely,

Linda Crafton, Ph.D.  
Direct of Teacher Education Assessment  
[l-crafton@northwestern.edu](mailto:l-crafton@northwestern.edu)  
(847)491-4620