

Dragon M Blaze

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Education

State University of New York at Cortland, Cortland, NY

Master of Science in Education in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages **May 2024**

State University of New York at Cortland, Cortland, NY

Bachelor of Science in Inclusive Childhood Education and Spanish **December 2022**

- Minor: Teaching English as a Second Language
- GPA: 3.94/4.0
- President's List, Fall 2019 – Fall 2022
- Study Abroad: University of Salamanca, Spain – Fall 2020

Teaching Certifications

New York State Initial Certification, English to Speakers of Other Languages, **February 2023**

New York State Initial Certification, Childhood Education (1-6), **January 2023**

New York State Initial Certification, Students with Disabilities (1-6), **December 2022**

Teaching Experience

Woodlawn Elementary School, Schenectady, NY, **February 2023 – Present**

English as a New Language Teacher, K-5

- Lead daily instruction for 6 different groups of K-5 students ranging from the proficiency levels of entering to expanding and nine different languages (Arabic, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandinka, Pashto, Dari, Farsi, and Persian)
- Identify students qualifying for ENL services through examining their home language surveys and conducting parent interviews
- Administer New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) and New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) proficiency assessments
- Coordinate co-teaching processes with mainstream teachers embedding technological programs like Seesaw, Google Classroom and Meets into virtual instruction to enhance student engagement and participation
- Prepare virtual reading lessons using RAZ-Kids leveled texts and self-created pre-reading, during-reading and after-reading activities with visual aids and simplify definitions of vocabulary words to enhance the student's reading comprehension and English vocabulary
- Support students in consistently using PICS and Proloquo2Go symbol-supported assistive technology to make independent nonverbal requests for their needs (food, bathroom, play etc.)

Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Suffolk County, NY, **July 2020 – January 2023**

Teaching Assistant

- Guided students in understanding classroom assignments by conducting one-on-one meetings with struggling students.
- Supported classroom teacher with managing student behavior and leading instruction
- Prepared reading instructional materials based on students' individual needs and independent reading levels
- Recorded behavioral data to track student progress towards appropriate academic and social behavior
- Consulted with the general education teachers to coordinate and align lessons to classroom instruction to ensure high academic expectations
- Incorporated technological programs of Kahoot and Jam board in daily lessons to encourage student engagement and participation with grade-level curriculum

Seymour Dual Language Academy, Syracuse, NY, **March 2022 – May 2022**

Student Teacher

- Designed bilingual lesson plans to assist students in accessing the grade-level curriculum in Spanish and English
- Establish an open communication system with grade level teachers and parents using the Remind application and translated documents in families preferred language to improve student outcomes
- Served as a building translator to help classroom teachers communicate with students and parents in Spanish
- Assisted various students with ascending proficiency levels as demonstrated through NYSESLAT data

Porter Elementary School, Syracuse, NY, **January 2022 – March 2022**

Student Teacher

- Created universally designed sensory writing/ fraction units utilizing visual aids, manipulatives, modeling and scaffolding techniques to assist students in accessing the curriculum and fractions at grade-level
- Updated students' IEP plans to reflect their present level of academic achievement and functional performance (PLAAFP) on IEP direct
- Assisted the principal and classroom teacher with translating messages for parents in Spanish during private meetings and phone calls
- Participated in Committee on Special Education (CSE) to discuss students' academic/ social progress

Developmental Disabilities Institute, Ronkonkoma, NY, **May 2019 – July 2020**

Teaching Assistant

- Conducted Discrete Trial Training so students with Autism could develop skills related to IEP goals
- Collected and tracked academic and behavioral data including ABC (antecedent, behavior, consequence) to gather information that will evolve into a student's behavior implementation plan
- Implemented the outlined positive behavioral support (PBS) treatment plans to aid students in reducing problem behavior and reinforcing positive replacement behaviors

Related Experience

Best Fitness, Albany, NY, **February 2023 – Present**

Zumba Instructor

- Lead students in high intensity dance-based aerobic fitness once a week to improve participants' cardiovascular fitness, muscular conditioning, and flexibility
- Incorporate various Latin rhythms (Merengue, Salsa, Bachata, and Reggaeton) into weekly choreography
- Create exercise routines with modifications for students of varying fitness levels

SUNY Cortland, Cortland, NY, **March 2020 – June 2020**

Student Intern

- Led a Chinese adult English language learner in virtual reading instruction through Zoom twice a week for an hour under supervision of a Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) professor
- Modeled reading the text aloud prior to the student reading aloud independently to promote confidence in reading fluency, pronunciation and expression
- Acted as a liaison by aiding classroom teachers in fulfilling translation requests

Skills and Other Certifications

- NASM Certified Personal Trainer **December 2024**
- Bachata and Salsa Latin Dance Instructor **November 2024 – Present**
- Zumba Dance Fitness Instructor **December 2020 – Present**
- New York State Certified Teaching Assistant I **July 2019**
- Bilingual Proficiency in Spanish