

**Comments from recent graduates – shared in response to the first-year teacher e-mails that are sent out from the Dean's Office.**

Finishing up yet another week of teaching English at Sutherland Public School.

The first year is definitely a crazy one, but it is quite fun and rewarding!

Thanks!

Nikki (Baker) Weiss

It was so nice to get your email! It's nice to hear what is happening at CU.

I am ending week 4 of teaching and it has been one of the biggest blessings I've had! I am teaching Kindergarten in a rural village in Alaska. Just living in a village puts the kiddos farther behind than those that live in a more populated accessible area. We're heavily focusing on the alphabet and learning to write our names! I have 33 kiddos and sometimes that is very very stressful. I teach 16 in the morning and 17 in the afternoon. I'm learning things that I never learned at CU or would have thought I would experience.

It's so different here but I am just glad to be a part of these little lives.

I know that it's going to be a challenging year for me but I'm ready! Thank you for sending that email!

Hope all is well for you.

-Falon Tardiff

Thank you for reaching out to us and keeping in contact with us in our new year and new adventure! Thank you for the encouragement as we teach and thank you for keeping us informed about CUNE!! I would like to pass on a better email to reach me. [CMiller@BaltimoreLutheran.org](mailto:CMiller@BaltimoreLutheran.org) May God continue to bless you and the Concordia community!!

In Him, Curtis Miller

Chase Reihmann (my husband) and I are doing quite well in Fort Myers, FL at Saint Michael Lutheran Church and School. So far we have had a great time and thankful that since I did my student teaching here we were already some what familiar with the cities, church, and school. I don't remember if I was able to tell you how we ended up here, but here is the short story.

While I was student teaching I found out that the school choir teacher for grades 4-8 and church music director was moving to another state. Chase was able to come visit over Palm Sunday weekend for an interview and we found out just a week or two before graduation that Chase got the position.

Currently I am the number one sub for the school until a position opens.

There is a good chance though that I may be a teacher for 5th grade which is self contained, but we'll have to see how it all works out over the summer.

The teacher that is retiring is a close friend, and wife of the vice principal. She is pulling to have me be her replacement so we'll just have to see. :)

Thanks for the update on Concordia! I know Chase and I have been missing Concordia and it was nice to get a glimpse at how things are going.

The best email to use to reach is me is: [akreihmann@gmail.com](mailto:akreihmann@gmail.com)

Just for further reference! By the way... Saint Michael, I think, is still interested in having further student teachers from Concordia! They were thrilled to have me visiting them!

God's Blessings,  
Anna Reihmann

I just want to say thank you, 1. For helping preparing me for what I'm doing now. 2. For praying for me. Daily I think back to this time last year and how freaked out I was because I had to take the PPST. I think back and laugh now but I remember being so scared of not graduating on time and not being able to do what I wanted to do.

I LOVE this! I can't imagine doing anything else. My students make me so happy and the things they say are priceless!. Clinton is such a great school and I've had so many people welcome me with open arms. I would have never thought I would end up actually teaching Kindergarten or 1st grade.. God has his own ways of making things happen!

Thanks again for helping me and believing that I could do it. I really appreciated it. :)

Doris Galarza

Thanks for the e-mail! Reading through those tips helped me reflect on how things have gone so far this year. Thanks for the devotion as well. It's good to take some time for God in the midst of getting ready for the next day. I've been busy teaching Physics 1, Physics 2, Chemistry, Biology, and a PE/Health class. Good to hear of all the education prospects at CUNE this year. I think my little brother's girl friend is one of them. Her name is Jessica Polk. If you see her around say hi to her and greet her to CUNE. She just transferred in from Wayne.

I'll be praying for your ministry at CUNE. Keep up the great work!

Tony Love

Hello Dr. Bork,

Thank you so much for your email. I have been thinking so much of Concordia lately and yes, even missing Nebraska. :-) I am so thankful for my time studying teaching in such a supportive and Christ-centered community.

Your email found me on a day filled with many giants - a screaming and uncooperative kindergartner, a handful of chatty and apathetic students, and a co-worker who feels having every last minute of her plan time is more important than making sure her 1st graders use the restrooms when they go from recess to specials causing me to lose the attention of an entire class for 20 minutes while 9 students waited for a turn in our single restroom. All that to say, your devo was very encouraging to read.

I am teaching Spanish K-3 at Parkview elementary in Charlotte, MI this year.

I have 5-6 classes a day(24-28 students), two are SPED classes(2-10 students).

I see 432 kids in all. Thank you for your prayers they are much appreciated especially as I learn the culture of my school and as my husband and I settle into this new community away from family and friends.

I am glad to hear that the Education program is growing. The world will be blessed to have every Christian teacher that leaves the doors of Concordia.

Please feel free to email me at: [oneill.heidi.d@gmail.com](mailto:oneill.heidi.d@gmail.com)

God's Blessings,

Heidi O'Neill

I would just like to let you know that God works in amazing ways... and your email is one of them...

Life has not been easy since I left CUNE and things are starting to pan out, finally, or at least I hope. I didn't receive a call so I took it upon myself to find a job. I was able to snag a position as infant teacher at Marquette University's Child Care here in Milwaukee. I felt that it was okay to do since I could further my education, and for free. Even though it was hurting me to not have Jesus time with the kids and that I wasn't using my LTD like all my other CUNE grads.

Finally in August, Pilgrim Lutheran Child Development Center called me to be their very first 2K teacher to help create their 2 year-old curriculum.

You're probably wondering why your email was such a blessing. Well, like I mentioned I could go to Marquette Masters program for FREE! Perfect opportunity right? Not so much... Even though it was free I didn't want it because it didn't have Concordia's name and it definitely did not have the Christian education integrated throughout the whole process. So I didn't go through with it and told myself that I really wanted to go back to NE to get my masters.

Then I got the call, which thus makes me immobile to WI. Your email not only tells me that you are offering special ed as a masters, but that it's all online... What a relief. I still get to be a CUNE student, studying special education, all while being here in MKE.

I can't express enough to you how much your email has meant to me. So as the time gets closer to when you are offering this master's program, please keep me updated. I am excited to get back emails as March draws near.

Sara Braatz

Thanks for the email! I'm glad to know that you still (sometimes) think of us! :) This email address works fine for me. I've gotten so used to checking it that I still use it! :) Josh and I are living at the STL seminary now. He's started classes and I am doing my DCE internship at Immanuel in St. Charles. I've been trying out this whole "being a Cardinals fan" thing, but I went to a game and they lost and the Royals have been winning... I don't know if I'm sold quite yet! ;)

I hope things are going well for you at Concordia. Blessings!

Elizabeth (Inman)

Thank you sooo much for the email! I really loved the devotion and need to always remind myself of the 10 tips you gave us!! I appreciate it that you are willing to still talk to all of us and pray for us too!! Thank you!!

God Bless,

Kate Phillips

Thanks for your email. Things are going well for me. I'm teaching at a public school in Phoenix Az. It's a title I school that's 69% hispanic, talk about a culture shock as well! I'm teaching 2nd grade and really like it. I have a good team that is very supportive. I have 29 students and it gets pretty tough sometime, but I love it! I'll be back the 10th- 16th of October and I'm planning on stopping in one day to say h!

Chelsi Mahalek

It is really great to hear from you. From all that I have heard it sounds like Concordia will be busy, busy this year! I am so happy that enrollment in the school and ed program just keeps increasing.

School has been going really fast. I have been enjoying my days with all of my preschoolers. There are a couple that could really frustrate me but I have decided to enjoy their crazy enthusiasm for everything. They really know how to attack life! If you would have asked me at the beginning of all of this if I would have 11 out of 18 students (in my morning class alone) that only understood Spanish coming in the school year, I would have never believed you. It surprises me that it was just the town over from my home town, and I never knew how many of them only now Spanish. I figured that they would understand both English and Spanish, but I was way off track.

This could have been a challenge, but the children are doing great. They pick everything up so quickly, plus I have a para that speaks both Spanish and English. She and I get along for the most part. We know we cannot always get along, because we are all different. :)

Blessings on your school year!

Amy Woodman