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Dakota Breen

Nov 03 ⋮

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Colonies Thread

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Missy Slaathaug

Nov 05 ⋮

Is the community supportive of ESL in colony schools?

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Dyanis Conrad (she/her)

Nov 06 ⋮

Do you mean the colony community?

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Members Chat

Tara Arntsen

Nov 05 ⋮

New colony teacher here. I'm four weeks in. What do you wish you knew your first year? Any tips would be greatly appreciated. Teaching 7th-9th, sometimes 7th-12th. Thanks in advance!

 Reply  0

Kristina Starr

Nov 05 

Hello Tara,

I think when you are teaching a multi-grade level classroom having a good schedule that follows well is important. My students follow a rotation and they always know what is expected of them if they are working in small group with me, working with my helper, working on the computers, or working independently at their desks.

One awesome benefit of teaching at the colony, you really get the chance to get to know your students and their families. It is a very rewarding job!

 Reply   T

Tara Arntsen

Nov 05 

@Kristina Starr Thank you for sharing, Kristina! I definitely love the small class size, but the multi-grade level setup is totally new for me.

 Reply  0

Kristina Starr

Nov 05 

@Tara Arntsen It can be a challenge! How many students do you have in each grade? When possible with reading and sometimes math topics as well, I do group my older students.

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Emily Koo

Nov 05 

Cool Tara! Where are you teaching?

 Reply  0

Tara Arntsen

Nov 05 

Sunset Colony. I'm part of the Britton-Hecla School District. Just 10 minutes from home :) I need to take 6 credits and pass the PLT Praxis to get my license within two years.

 Reply  E

kit anderson

Nov 05 

How many students does the EL teacher typically have on a caseload at these schools?

Members Chat

 Reply  0

Tara Arntsen

Nov 05 

I don't know what's typical. I have 7 for most of the day, grades 7-9. The 10th graders join in for one class and bring my total to 10. Study hall is 17, grades 7-12.

 Reply  0

Dakota Breen

Nov 06 

I know very little about the colonies. The article in this year's 2021 Dakota TESOL newsletter by Kathleen Wollman was very insightful for me. https://d2157d95-1f6e-47ef-b37e-b0f7fbc99d91.filesusr.com/ugd/d1170e_cc9f25081b7944e5938dd6780eba30d1.pdf

 Reply  T E

Tara Arntsen

Nov 06 

Same here! Glad I read it before I started just to have a sense of what the days would be like.

 Reply  0

kit anderson

Nov 06 

I agree Dakota, this is all sort of new to me! Do you all teach just ESL or incorporate it into all the subject areas?

 Reply  0

Tara Arntsen

Nov 06 

I teach 8th and 9th grade math, music appreciation, current events, social studies, ELA, and science so ESL is incorporated into all of those.

 Reply  0

kit anderson

Nov 06 

Welcome back, everyone! Does anyone have any new questions or thoughts about colonies?

 Reply  0

kit anderson

Nov 06 

Wow, Tara! I was at an immersion center and it was similar- all subjects all day. What a full day for you! Do you have the same kiddos all day or do the classes change like a highschool setting?

 Reply  0

Members Chat

Tara Arntsen

Nov 06 ⋮

It's a little different. At Northern, I taught ESL all day every day focusing on different skills and, in Groton, I was math 7th-11th. This year, I have the same 7 students for most of the day, but next year, there will be more of a math focus and my student groups will change more frequently throughout the day. It doesn't sound like I'll teach any of the same classes next year and, if I do, they'll be with different textbooks.

🗨️ Reply ❤️ 0

kit anderson

Nov 06 ⋮

Do the majority of the students see themselves staying at the colony or do they plan to leave?

🗨️ Reply ❤️ 0

Tara Arntsen

Nov 06 ⋮

I'm not sure I'm allowed to ask students about that (I taught in China and there were just some topics, for instance, Taiwan, that were just off-limits.), but I have found out, through chats with other teachers, that some people successfully leave the colony and others have left and then return. It seems that most people stay though.

🗨️ Reply ❤️ 0

Tara Arntsen

Nov 06 ⋮

I'd be interested in knowing if that's the same at other colonies. I've only been at the colony for about a month, so I am definitely still gathering info and getting settled.

🗨️ Reply ❤️ 0

Dakota Breen

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dakota

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