🚀 Intro to Teaching: Your Journey to Impact! 🍎

Welcome to Intro to Teaching as a Profession! Get ready to explore the dynamic world of education and discover if shaping young minds is your superpower. This course isn't just about textbooks; it's about hands-on learning, real-world insights, and building the skills you need to become an inspiring educator. Let's dive in!

🎯 Course Overview & Standards

This foundational course is your first step into the exciting Teaching as a Profession program of study. You'll gain essential knowledge about the history of education, diverse career paths within the field, and how human development influences learning. We'll also start building your professional portfolio – a key tool for your future! Ready to level up? Here's a sneak peek at the game-changing skills and knowledge you'll master in this course:

1. Foundations of Education 🏛️

- **1.1 U.S. Public Education:** Unpack the major events and movements that have shaped education in the United States. Think historical game-changers!
- **1.2 Validity Theories:** Research and summarize in a clear and coherent narrative the influences of major educational theorists' philosophies. Evaluate the validity theories by assessing the extent to which the reasoning and evidence of each theorist support their claims.

2. Careers in Education 👩‍🏫

- **2.1 Career Pathways:** Identify and analyze career pathways within the Education and Training cluster (e.g., teacher, counselor, librarian, trainer, speech-language pathologist).
- **2.2 Roles & Responsibilities:** Interview professionals in the education field to gather information about their roles and responsibilities. Categorize the range of tasks that different educators are responsible for and estimate the time spent on each one.

3. Educator Aptitudes 💪

- **3.1 Aptitudes & 21st Century Skills:** Describe the aptitudes, including 21st century skills, needed by education professionals; self-assess 21st century skills, including the ability to communicate verbally and nonverbally in a respectful manner, work effectively in teams and resolve conflicts when necessary, demonstrate a positive work ethic, understand different cultural perspectives and their impact in the classroom, use technology, adapt to changes, and manage time wisely.
- **3.3 Baseline Evaluation and Growth Plans:** Using the self-assessment from standard 3.2, establish a baseline evaluation of 21st century skills, attitudes, and work habits. Create a growth plan promoting advancement of skills and abilities that will be placed in the course portfolio.

4. Introduction to Human Development 🌱

- **4.1 Milestones of Development:** Compare and contrast physical, emotional, cognitive, and social milestones of development from toddlerhood through adolescence.
- **4.2 Brain & Cognitive Development:** Illustrate the parts of the human brain, detailing their principle functions as they relate to physical and cognitive development. Draft a companion timeline of the stages of human development from toddlerhood through early adulthood. Determine the most important influences on and relationships among brain development, reasoning capacity, and learning. Define brain plasticity and describe how it changes over the lifespan.
- **4.3 Factors in Personality:** Analyze the factors that contribute to personality and investigate several research-based personality assessment tools. Analyze and reflect on the connections among personality, life experience, environment, and brain development.

5. Introduction to Learning 🧠

- **5.1 Theories of Human Learning:** Describe and critique major approaches to theories of human learning.
- **5.2 Student Self-Concept and Academic Performance:** Research the influence of student experience, interests, aptitudes, family, culture, teacher behavior and attitudes, and peers on student self-concept and academic performance.

6. Communication in Education 🗣️

- **6.1 Effective Communication:** Understand and use a variety of effective verbal, nonverbal, and media communication techniques to foster active inquiry, collaboration, and supportive interaction in the classroom.

7. Career Portfolio 📁

- **7.1 Professional Portfolio:** Create an electronic professional portfolio, using narrative and visual elements to connect personal career preparation artifacts to concepts learned in this course. This is your personal showcase!
- **7.2 Career Pathway Plan:** Synthesize information from Education and Training career exploration to create a written or electronic career pathway plan outlining academic and career achievement goals, as well as a timeline for ongoing reflection throughout the program of study coursework.
- **7.3 Technological Tools:** Research various technological tools and skills to support literacy instruction and personal communication skills, including but not limited to computers, interactive web sites, blogs, and online research.

📚 Class Materials: Your Toolkit for Success

To rock this course, you'll need:

- **Dedicated Notebook/Binder:** For notes, handouts, and reflections.
- **Pens/Pencils:** The classics never go out of style!
- **Chromebook/Laptop:** For research, digital assignments, and portfolio creation. Make sure it's charged! 🔋
- **Positive Attitude:** Essential for collaboration and learning! ✨
- **Curiosity:** Be ready to ask questions and explore new ideas. 🤔

🌟 Class Expectations: Let's Make Learning Awesome!

We're building a supportive and dynamic learning community. Here's how we'll thrive together:

- **Be Present & Engaged:** Arrive on time, ready to participate in discussions, activities, and group work. Your voice matters!
- **Respect & Empathy:** Treat your classmates, your teacher, and yourself with respect. We're here to learn from each other's perspectives.

- **Active Listening:** Pay attention when others are speaking. Good educators are great listeners!
- **Take Initiative:** Be proactive in your learning. Ask for help when you need it, and offer help when you can.
- **Digital Citizenship:** Use technology responsibly and ethically. Your online presence reflects your professionalism.
- **Professionalism:** Even as students, we'll practice professional behaviors, especially during interviews and when discussing sensitive topics.

📝 Grading & Assessment: How You'll Shine

Your grade will reflect your understanding of the course standards and your active participation. Components will include:

- **Daily Assignments/Activities:** In-class work, quick checks, and participation points.
- **Projects & Presentations:** Research projects, presentations on educational topics, and collaborative assignments.
- **Quizzes & Tests:** To assess your knowledge of key concepts and theories.
- **Informational Interviews:** Documented interviews with educators.
- **Professional Portfolio:** Your ongoing digital portfolio will be a major component.
- **Participation:** Your engagement in discussions, group work, and classroom activities.

⏰ Late Work Policy: Stay on Track!

We understand life happens! However, meeting deadlines is a crucial professional skill.

- **Late submissions** will be accepted with a penalty (e.g., 10% deduction per day late) for a maximum of 10 calendar days after the original due date. This policy helps you build essential professional habits for future careers!
- **Communicate!** If you anticipate a challenge, please talk to me *before* the deadline. We can work something out!

🤝 Academic Integrity: Be Your Best Self

Honesty and integrity are non-negotiable. All work submitted must be your own. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment and disciplinary action as per school policy. When in doubt, cite your sources!

📢 Communication: Let's Stay Connected

- **Email:** The best way to reach me is via email at fisherr@cocke.k12.tn.us. I'll do my best to respond within 24-48 hours.
- Remind/Google Classroom: I'll post important updates, assignments, and reminders here. Make sure you're connected!
- **Office Hours:** I'm available for questions and support before school from 8:00-8:15a.m. and after school by appointment.

🔒 Classroom Safety & Environment

Our classroom is a safe space for learning and exploration. Please follow all school safety guidelines. We will also discuss ethical considerations and professional boundaries relevant to the education field throughout the course.

✨ Let's Get Started!

I'm so excited to embark on this learning adventure with you. This course will challenge you, inspire you, and help you discover the incredible impact you can have as an educator. Get ready to learn, grow, and make a difference!

Your Teacher,

Mrs. Rebekah Fisher