

# OU-C education students spend break helping current teachers

CHILLICOTHE -- About a dozen future teachers from Ohio University-Chillicothe have spent their holiday break helping current teachers while gaining important insights into their future profession.

The OU-C early education students spent 20 hours each assisting teachers and students at Tiffin Elementary School in Chillicothe.

"We wanted to give the students an opportunity to use their talents to give back to the community as well as see the workings of a school beyond what happens in the classroom," said OU-C early education faculty member Jamie Harmount, who organized the volunteer initiative. "This type of experience complements what the students learn in the classroom. To be a successful educator, you must be willing to 'pay forward' and use your talent to help others, and this helps to emphasize that concept."

Among their tasks, the OU-C teacher candidate volunteers worked one-on-one with students in different subjects such as reading and math. They also worked with students who have special needs and assisted on special projects for the

teachers such as helping with a field trip. The OU-C students are able to gain valuable insights from this experience that are applicable in their studies and future careers.

"Often, experience is the best teacher, and I have been able to learn things that you cannot get from textbooks," said Beth Mabeavers, a McClain High School graduate. "I was able to see that all students learn differently, and it is important to adjust accordingly."

"I was able to observe and learn helpful teaching strategies by seeing how the teachers interacted with the students and the tactics they used," said Abby Hartley, a Huntington High School graduate who worked with students in intervention programs as well as assisting in classrooms. "It was interesting to observe teachers interacting differently with students and seeing how various styles are effective."

Jordan DeWitt, a Chillicothe High School graduate, said: "I always liked helping kids, and this offered an opportunity to tutor some students and give them the help they need to succeed in the classroom."

The teachers and administrators at Tiffin Elementary were thankful for the helping hand the OU-C students provided.

"The OU-C students have been fantastic and have been very helpful for both the teachers and the students they assist," Tiffin Elementary Principal Quincey Gray said. "I have received a lot of positive feedback from the teachers. There are several projects going on during the holidays, and the students' assistance has been very helpful."