

Xavier University's Summer Reading Practicum Top 10 Questions

Information about the History of the Summer Reading Practicum.

Xavier's Summer Reading Practicum has been in existence for over 30 years. It was designed as part of the course work for the M.Ed. degree and Reading Specialist Program for teachers who desired to become master teachers in the curricular area of reading education. The purpose of the Practicum is two-fold: 1) to guide Graduate Students and Master Teachers in the art of teaching reading strategies to students who are challenged by the process; and, 2) to offer a reading clinic where students in the primary, middle and upper level grades have an opportunity to strengthen their reading abilities and their enjoyment of reading through guided instruction that is both functional and fun.

The following are the top 10 questions asked each year by inquiring parents and guardians who send their children to the Summer Reading Practicum. It is hoped that this information will be helpful as you plan your child's summer activities.

1. What are the dates, times, grade levels, and cost of the Summer Reading Practicum?

Dates: Monday, July 11 through Friday, July 22, 2010
Time: 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Place: Xavier University Campus
Grade Levels: 1 – 8
Cost: \$80.00 for 2 week session

* Make sure you are on time for drop-off and pick up. We do not want your child to miss any of the exciting lessons or to worry if you are not there to pick them up after their lesson.

Students are required to attend both weeks due to the structure of the program.

2. How Can I reach the Practicum in Case of an Emergency? What should I do if my child is going to be late or absent?

Should you have an emergency event during the course of the Summer Reading Practicum or if your child is going to be late or is ill for any given day, please **contact Ms. April Thomas, secretary for our program, at 513-745-3701**. She will promptly forward the information to one of the summer directors for immediate attention.

3. What is the Dress Code?

Students should wear comfortable clothing for indoor and/or outdoor learning environments. It is advisable that your child bring a sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket just in case the building becomes “chilly.” (Our practicum teachers and supervisors always have a sweater or jacket handy just in case!)

4. Do we serve snacks?

We do not serve snacks to the students because of the prevalence of food allergies and dietary restrictions. However, if your child needs to eat a snack because of a medical condition, feel free to send the snack with your child each day of the Summer Reading Practicum. Please let the Practicum Staff know, and we would be happy to remind your child to eat his/her snack at the appropriate time. **It is very important that your child have a nourishing breakfast before he/she comes to the Practicum that will sustain him/her during the tutoring times.**

Remember: When the body is nourished, the mind can flourish!

5. Do the children get a break each morning?

Every day, part of the routine of the Summer Reading Practicum is to take a short break, when appropriate, from the morning’s activities for a restroom break, water, and movement. Learning time is maximized. Restroom facilities are available when needed.

6. Will the Practicum be limited to the Hailstones Hall & Alter Hall buildings?

Some of the reading activities may be part of an outdoor activity. These activities are limited to campus. Children will be supervised at all times by their Graduate tutors, and the Supervisors assigned to each grade level.

7. What materials does my child need to bring to the Summer Reading Practicum?

All materials used in the program are provided by Xavier University and the Summer Reading Practicum. Your tuition dollars are used in part to provide disposable materials from writing instruments, to paper, to books. In addition, teacher materials, idea books, games, trade texts are purchased to supplement the lesson plans of the Graduate tutors.

8. What is the Staffing Organization of the Practicum?

- ❑ **Director of the Graduate Reading Program at Xavier University.**
Dr. Leslie Ann Prosak-Beres is the Director of the Graduate Program who oversees and organizes the curriculum for the both the graduate students and the students attending the Summer Reading Practicum according to the Language Arts Standards, K-12 for the State of Ohio.
- ❑ **Summer Practicum Directors.**
Ms. Sally Barnhart and Ms. Rita Bitzer are the Summer Practicum Directors and the instructors for the course entitled EDRE 679, Practicum in Reading. They are responsible for the day-to-day organization of the graduate coursework, the tutoring schedule, and the consistency of the curriculum across the grade levels for the graduate students and lesson planning for your child.
- ❑ **Supervisors.**
There are six (6) Master teachers who work for the Summer Reading Practicum and assist Ms. Barnhart and Ms. Bitzer as supervisors for each of the grade leveled areas of tutoring. They oversee the direction of specific grade level curriculum, lesson planning, and classroom management.
- ❑ **Graduate Students.**
The classroom tutors for the Summer Reading Practicum are master teachers who are completing both their Reading Endorsement, K-12 as a highly qualified reading teacher and/or their M.Ed in Reading. This course is generally the capstone course for their degree. The average ratio of tutor to student is 3:1.

9. Describe the Curriculum of the Summer Reading Practicum.

The Practicum is an individualized reading program that analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of the students who attend, and develops curriculum focused on developmentally appropriate reading strategies that will enhance each student's reading abilities. All of the materials introduced, practiced, and reviewed are based upon the Language Arts Curriculum K-12, and are developed from the Ohio State Department of Education guidelines. We concentrate on all areas of the reading process: reading, writing, speaking and listening each day, in every planned lesson.

There will be both individual instruction and group instruction developed around a theme selected by the Graduate Master Teachers. Each grade level will have its own physical classroom space and designated area of study.

10. Classroom Visitation

During the course of the Summer Reading Practicum, parents/guardians will not be allowed to visit the classroom while the tutoring is in progress. The best teaching and learning happens when the student can concentrate and not be distracted by family observations.

There will be an update/newsletter of progress and activities at the end of each week of the Summer Reading Practicum. The final newsletter will also include an individual report of your child's progress and work, along with suggestions for home support until school resume this fall.

On the last day of the Summer Reading Practicum, families will be invited to an Open House. You will receive an invitation to the festivities at the end of the first week of the practicum.

Note: Should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact our secretary, Ms. April Thomas, 513-745-3701, and she will forward your concerns to the appropriate person(s). Most questions or concerns will be answered by the next business day of the university.