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### The Immersion Program

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# The Immersion Program

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By TA Lily Kroenung



COR 101-38 with Mr. Miller

# What is the Immersion Program

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- The Teacher Immersion Program (TIP) is a partnership between OCM BOCES and local colleges and universities, to place aspiring educators in need of authentic experience into districts in need of quality substitute teachers across the region.
- Paid subbing position

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- Since 2019 OCM Boces and SUNY Cortland have been partners for this program
  - Places students in any K-12 classrooms in one of 11 participating districts in Cortland, Tompkins, Onondaga, or Madison counties.
  - May be asked to work in a grade that is different from their degree area.

# What do you do as a substitute?

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- Assigned to serve the same districts as a regular weekly sub on the days where you do not have classes (sadly no half days)
- Maintain classroom discipline and to carry on the classroom procedures as if you were the regular teacher
- **EXAMPLES:** taking attendance, explaining homework, maintaining classroom cleanliness and, writing notes of how students were each period

# From every day counts blog:

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- You'll develop skills that will help you succeed in any career.
- There's no set schedule; you get to pick which days you want to work.
- It's an impressive job to add to your resume.
- You'll gain marketable teaching and networking experience.
- It's a great way to transition into the "real world" after graduation.

# OCM BOCES ANONYMOUS SURVEY RESPONSE

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## Teacher Immersion Fellow Testimonials (via anonymous survey)

The Teacher Immersion Program has truly been one of my best experiences at Cortland so far. Stepping foot into a classroom and working with students provides you with knowledge that professors couldn't possibly lecture on. Working in local school districts, networking, and attending professional development workshops has been extremely rewarding. I look forward to using everything I have learned during this semester of the Teacher Immersion Program and implementing it in my future classroom.

I have learned so much about myself as an educator through this experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the students and faculty members.

The Teacher Immersion Program has put me in dozens of classrooms this semester, at a time when seeing as many different classes as possible is the best possible thing I can do to learn to be a better teacher. I've learned more about how the education system really operates through this program than through coursework. Getting paid for excellent experience with an established support structure is something I would recommend to any Cortland student with a serious interest in teaching.

I wish I could give the program a 10 out of 5! It was a great chance to get to interact with schools and students. It helped me come to the conclusion that I want to be a teacher for 30 plus years. It is a great opportunity for employment as well. I always know where I will be each day. It is the perfect program for any aspiring teacher at SUNY Cortland!

This experience has been very helpful to me in a variety of ways. No class that I have ever taken could have prepared me for teaching the way this experience has. I'm so happy that I was able to partake in this experience and I know that I became a better student at Cortland because of the experiences I reflected upon as a teacher in the classroom. If anyone is thinking about teaching in any subject area, this experience through OCM BOCES is something I strongly recommend.

# Benefits of this program

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- \$100 per day
- Observe effective teachers
- Work with students in classroom settings
- Develop a professional network with districts and BOCES
- Commit to specific days of the week for one semester
- Incredible classroom experience



# How to apply

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- YOU NEED:

- Cover Letter

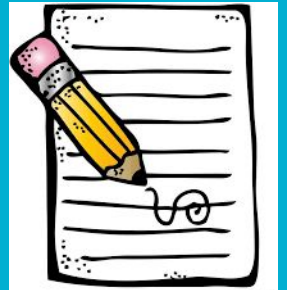
- Resume

- Class Schedule/ Availability (for semester you want to start)

- 2 References



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- After a 15 minute screening interview and reference checks.....



AS

Aislyn Spencer &lt;aspencer@ocmboces.org&gt;

To: Lily Kroenung lily.kroenung@cortland.edu



Thu 9/30/2021 11:33 AM

**CAUTION:** This email came from outside SUNY Cortland. Don't click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please forward this to [thc@cortland.edu](mailto:thc@cortland.edu) if you think this email is suspicious.

Hi Lily,

Congratulations you have been accepted into the Teacher **Immersion Program**. Kathryn will work with our participating districts to place all Teacher Fellows. You will be hired by the participating district. They will have you do new hire paperwork and you will have to be board approved by the district. If you do not have fingerprints on file with the New York State Department of Education the district will give you the information on how to make an appointment for fingerprinting. You can always reach out to me here at OCM Boces with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
Aislyn

**Aislyn Spencer**

Literacy Department  
OCM BOCES Instructional Support  
[www.ocmboces.org/iss](http://www.ocmboces.org/iss)



Onondaga - Cortland - Madison Counties  
BOCES

Learn more about the Dignity Act New York State Certification Class.

[www.ocmboces.org](http://www.ocmboces.org)

315.431-8502 (Phone)  
315.431.8585 (Fax)



# What happens after

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- Fellows need to be approved by the school board in order to start subbing
- Need to fill out district-specific paperwork for pay-roll
- As a Teacher Immersion Fellow, you are required to participate in 2 professional learning sessions each semester.

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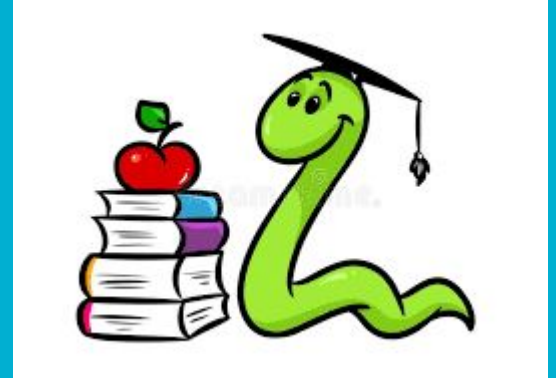
Thanks

Any Questions?

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**In what ways has my presentation helped you?**

**Was this beneficial?**



# Sources/ Citations

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- <https://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=3628>
- <https://ess.com/blog/why-college-students-should-become-substitute-teachers/>