

Narrative Summary

1. Narrative Summary

Name	Karen McReath
School	Cold Springs Elementary
Date	June 14-18, 2010

“Each educator will prepare a one-paged typed narrative suitable for publication in newspaper, newsletters, magazines, etc. This narrative should reflect on the experiences during the externship and how it will impact your individual curriculum during the school year.”

2. Narrative Summary

I recently participated in the CAWS program. This is the Cullman Area Workforce Solutions program. It is an Educator Exchange program where a teacher goes into a local industry and observes for one week. I went to Rehau. I was to look for math, science, and technology concepts that I may be teaching in my classroom as well as many other things. I identified numerous concepts. Students ask "Why are we having to learn this?". I will be able to go back to my classroom armed with many new explanations of why they have to learn certain things.

We as teachers focus on teamwork, cooperation, following directions, safety, and paying close attention to details. While observing at Rehau, I saw all of these things in place. Employees were working as a team to meet production. They were cooperating and following specific directions with many details to make a quality product. Safety in this plant was a must! All safety rules were followed to the extreme. Safety plans were in place, practiced, and were routine. Rehau's workforce was impeccable in paying close attention to details, as well as, being on-their-toes and flexible. They relied on each other to make sure everything was running smoothly. I can go back to my classroom and teach them the importance of these things. I will be able to bring a new sense of excitement to my students. I will tell them all about the "world of work" and about what bright futures they can have. I will put in place new teaching techniques that insure cooperation, teamwork, and excellence. I feel that I have been rejuvenated about learning and I feel that my enthusiasm will splash onto my students. Seeing the new innovative robotic systems in place gives me a greater appreciation for technology. I saw at Rehau, one particular system that 10 years ago was top notch. It is now obsolete and being replaced by a new robotic system. The new robotic system was unheard of 10 years ago and 10 years from now, when my 2nd graders are graduating, will again be obsolete. I want to instill in my students that they can be the creator of the next best thing. They can use their creativity and knowledge of technology to build the next robotic system. I want them to see and understand that this type of job can provide for their families one day. They can have a different life and a better future for the next generation.