

# knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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## The Life of a Student Teacher

“This is what I came to MLC for, and I’m excited to finally be able to try it out!” says **Rachel Nitz** (*MLS / Good Shepherd-Beaverton MI*). She could only be talking about one thing—teaching. For all education majors, student teaching is a thrilling opportunity to finally put to the test everything they’ve learned over the years.

Nervousness tends to go hand-in-hand with this excitement, but according to **John Kujath** (*LPS / St. Paul-East Troy WI*) there’s no reason to be afraid. “By the time you student teach, you’re well-equipped with the tools you need to succeed.” On top of at least three years of education classes, student teachers go to three weeks of intensive preparation classes before their 15 weeks of teaching.

But there’s more to teaching than simply knowing what to do. According to Rachel, what matters is how you do it. “It’s important to be yourself,” she says. “Kids just want a real person who’s excited to be there every minute of every day.”

So whether it involves driving down the street to MLC’s Early Childhood Learning Center or traveling across the country, student teaching is a vital step in learning how to serve in a classroom and provide students with a high-quality Christian education.

## Exercise in Disguise

What better way is there to work off those chips than by shaking your hips? Zumba classes have made their way onto MLC’s campus, and the benefits are endless!

Certified Zumba instructor and MLC junior **Mikala Schmitz** (*pictured*) teaches these biweekly classes. Through Latin American dance movements that involve cardio, balance, and muscle conditioning, students like **Molly Schalinske** (*pictured*) are able to work out in a fun, exciting way. “I love it!” Molly says. “It’s such a great way to exercise because you don’t even feel like you’re exercising. You’re just dancing!”

“It’s also a good introduction to other cultures,” adds Mikala, “and a chance to spend time with friends and meet new people.” This is definitely true on a college campus, but Mikala hopes to apply Zumba to her ministry as well. “If I can help my future church or school offer Zumba classes to the community, it could be a great outreach opportunity!”



Early childhood education major **Erin Bohl** (*St. Croix / Crown of Life-West St. Paul MN*) student taught at the MLC Early Childhood Learning Center.



**Mikala Schmitz** (*Lakeside / St. Paul’s-Fort Atkinson WI*) leads **Molly Schalinske** (*Shoreland / St. John-Burlington WI*) and other students in MLC’s Zumba class.