



KENTUCKY CENTER FOR MATHEMATICS

Good News from KCM Coaching 2008-2009

Good News from Doss High School

By Erin Kenney, Sophomore Math Coach

At Doss High School, we are focusing on building a math culture in our building. We want the focus and involvement of math to be school-wide, not with just the math department teachers. In addition, we want to build math confidence in both our students and our staff! It's too easy to say, "I'm just not that good at math." We believe that everyone can do math, with the right attitude and support.

Here are some activities we are doing at Doss to build a math culture:

We are celebrating our senior students that scored out of the novice category on CATS math last spring. We currently have a "Weapons of Math Destruction" bulletin board in the main hallway with every student's name posted that scored out of novice. In addition, we are having "Weapons of Math Destruction" t-shirts made for all of these students to celebrate their successes.

We are going to have a math bulletin board in the Ninth Grade Academy and in the main math hallway with a problem of the month. The title of the bulletin board is "If there was a problem, Yo! I'll solve it!" Posted will be an open-ended, multi-task problem for students **and**

staff to solve. Students and staff will submit their answers to their math teacher or to the math coach. All students and staff with correct answers will go into a drawing for that month to win a "If there was a problem, Yo! I'll solve it!" math t-shirt!

We will continue the Doss Math Lab, which is an after school program for our juniors needing additional help and practice throughout the school year. Our Math Lab consists of five different labs that students visit on a rotation basis.

After looking at CATS scores, the math department determined the areas of concern for our students. Consequently, labs were designed with these particular areas in mind. Some labs include *CSI Doss* (linear regression/functions), *Algebachee Ball* (number sense/expressions), *Angles We Have Heard on High* (trig functions), and *On the Road Again* (patterns/linear equations).

In addition, struggling students were targeted at the beginning of the school year and were recommended to attend all five labs. Many incentives are offered to our juniors for attending, including a "Doss Mathlete" t-shirt and a Math Walk field trip to the zoo.

Lastly, we are going to decorate the math hallway with posters of *Math Around the World* to celebrate math. Because our students are required to have four years of math, we figure the math hallway should look appealing. In addition, we want students to see the importance of math in everyday life, as well as in different cultures.

We are very excited this year with all of the "math" we are bringing to light at Doss High School! I could not be prouder to work with all of the teachers in the math department. They are extremely enthusiastic and dedicated to creating successes for our students on a daily basis. I am certain their enthusiasm will spread school-wide to make building a math culture at Doss High School a success.

