



KENTUCKY CENTER FOR MATHEMATICS

Good News from KCM Coaching 2008-2009

Good News from Greenwood High School

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At Greenwood High School in the mathematics department, you will almost always find teachers that work together. Teachers share unit plans, lesson plans, activeboard flipcharts, tests, and activities. By working together, we share the load, making it possible to accomplish much more than we each could individually.

Our administration has allowed most mathematics teachers to share the same lunch time. Whereas this is not a scheduled working lunch, this time often becomes good time to talk with each other.

Last year, we began officially creating common assessments for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Because we were on a block schedule, we had a chance to evaluate the outcomes of particular common assessments and make adjustments

before second semester began.

In January, our Geometry teachers asked me as math coach to compile data from student scores on the common final Geometry exam given just before Christmas break. After I compiled the data, Geometry teachers met during lunch to examine students' successes and failures.

Question by question, we looked together at what students did and did not know. The final exam was chunked by topics related to core content and questions were at appropriate DOK levels according to Kentucky Core Content 4.1.

Based on data, the teachers were able to make some valuable observations related to what they were teaching as well as how unit assessments related to the common final

and to the Kentucky Core Content Test.

Geometry teachers decided what needed to be done, divided the work among themselves, and made changes the following semester. The outcomes were unit tests that contained questions at higher DOK levels along with bell ringers to be done throughout the semester that would help prepare students for the final and KCCT like questions.

As a math coach, I did not provide the answers; I compiled data, asked questions, and listened as a team of professional educators formulated solutions that helped students learn at higher levels.

