



# KENTUCKY CENTER FOR MATHEMATICS

*Good News from KCM Coaching 2008-2009*

## Reflections of a Math Coach

By Susan Gordon, Senior Math Coach



As a senior coach, I am beginning my third year of math coaching. I have seen great results, I believe, due in part to the Math Coach Initiative. My school's math scores have improved 20% over the last two years. Teachers are now collaborating to discuss student progress, math content, and ideas to improve student achievement.

One of my math teachers said to me the other day, "I am glad our math team works well together. I don't think all content areas do." This comment was made after a Student Achievement Team meeting of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teachers. We had a very productive

meeting and I left believing I can make a difference as the coach. I believe that Cognitive Coaching, collaboration, and consultation have increased the capacity and efficacy of the math teachers at my school.

I have grown as a Teacher Leader in my school because of my coach role. My administrators encourage and support in my role as the Math Coach. I do not feel like I am put in the middle of situations where the administrator wants me to "fix" the teacher. I am still able to connect to teachers in a positive way since they do not see me as an evaluator. I believe teachers are

hungry for one-on-one conversations with coaches.

My experience has shown that by building rapport and trust, teachers are comfortable and confident as I observe their class to collect data.

The best times are during reflective conversations when teachers have the "cognitive shift" in thinking. Some still want me to help them in the "consulting fashion", but many are ready to start reflecting on their own.



## East Jessamine Middle School

