

“New Ways of Thinking about Math” at Gallatin County Elementary


The teaching and learning of mathematics at Gallatin County Elementary School is undergoing a transformation designed to improve students’ attitudes towards and achievement in mathematics.

Principal Joe Wright says, “I believe that we are building new ways of thinking about math.” He shared how Bonnie Humphries (pictured right), KCM Community member and KCM Alumni Coach, has steered the primary mathematics instruction changes in Gallatin County. He shared how the school formed a committee under the guidance of Bonnie to address the challenges of numeracy development in students.

As a way to better understand diagnostic assessment in early numeracy, teachers participated in SNAP (student numeracy assessment progressions) professional development, provided by the KCM. As an experienced KCM Coach, Bonnie skillfully collaborates with the teachers to help them accurately assess students’ numeracy levels and thereafter to create activities to facilitate gains in students’ mathematical skills that are aligned with the Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS).

The teachers and administrators have recognized changes not only in student achievement (as

“These [student achievement] improvements are a direct result in Bonnie’s dedication to the math program at Gallatin County. She has put in numerous hours of researching and creating and making games and activities designed by the Kentucky Center for Mathematics’ Kentucky Numeracy Project.”



-Assistant Principal,
Shonda Dunn

indicated in the graph below), but also in teacher understanding, and teacher and student attitudes towards mathematics.

Bonnie explained “Students were struggling with subtraction in second and third grade. Our SNAP testing reflected a need to spend more time on counting backwards in Kindergarten. This has really been a big awareness for teachers to really understand all of the facets number covers.”

Principal Wright says, “Our teachers and our children [now] look forward to the time they study math daily. The feeling of being capable and successful is building a lot more competence and confidence in teachers and students.”

Seth Hunter, Math Specialist and President of Kentucky Council of Teachers of Mathematics commented on how Bonnie has helped guide the school’s transition toward new assessments and a deeper understanding of mathematics. He said, Bonnie “works with teachers from her district, as well as others to interpret the KCAS...she is very aware of how to implement the KCAS within the context of Highly Effective Teaching and Learning.”

