



Murray Elementary School is Distinguished –again!

For the second straight year, Murray Elementary School is classified as a distinguished school—a school that earned test scores between the 90th and 99th percentile in the state! Sixty-seven percent of third grade students earned proficient or distinguished on the mathematics section of the 2013 KPREP state assessment.

MES was recently featured in its local news for its record with Response to intervention implementation. The KDE (Kentucky Department of Education) and KET (Kentucky Education Television) are utilizing MES as a video recording site because of the school's achievements. The footage will be part of an online professional development provided by KDE and KET.

MES' recognition as a distinguished school and model for intervention services extends across subjects. Specifically for mathematics, MIT (Mathematics Intervention Teacher) Beth Wood explains, "I believe the key factor in our school's success is our strong dedication to data driven instruction and decision making. We provide flexible math groups in addition to our core math time, these are created based on student data and needs." As the MIT, Wood provides an additional 30 minutes of supplemental mathematics instruction for tier 3 students in small groups. Her practices are then relayed back to regular classroom teachers.

"Teachers have begun to look beyond the teacher manuals and deeper into the Mathematics Common Core Standards," said Wood. Since having a full-time MIT, Wood says, "We now have more of a team approach to teaching math in our school than in the past. Teachers use the KCM's [Kentucky Numeracy Project Intervention Guide](#) for lessons and they are providing more hands-on instruction when teaching math."

Beth Wood has served as the MIT at MES since 2011. From her perspective, **"Early numeracy development is essential for all students. In order for them to be successful in math, both in the academic arena and in life, they must have a strong numeracy foundation upon which to rely."** Wood further explains, "[The foundation] is fostered through a strong hands-on approach to the primary curriculum. Teachers must focus on the three aspects of number (quantitative, verbal, and symbolic) equally in their instruction."

MES is a recipient of the MAF (Mathematics Achievement Fund), which is appropriated by the Kentucky General Assembly to support mathematics intervention services for students. The KCM's Primary Mathematics Intervention Program is dedicated to training and supporting MAF MITs who work directly with students and collaborate with other teachers to share resources and best practices.



The MAF has had a tremendous impact on our school's success because it has allowed me to be a fulltime MIT, but more importantly, the trainings have provided me with an enormous amount of knowledge that I have been able to share with my fellow colleagues. This in turn has affected their instructional strategies across all grade levels. The MAF has also allowed me to become a respected leader within my school system and has afforded me an avenue through which to share all the information KCM has provided me.

-Beth Wood, MIT
Murray Elementary School

November, 2013