

## Madison Kindergarten Academy Spotlight: Jennifer Martin

Jennifer Martin, a third year Mathematics Intervention Teacher at Madison Kindergarten Academy in Madison County, has taken the KCM Community by storm with her leadership initiative and passion for mathematics teaching and learning!

Jennifer's can-do attitude and passion for mathematics instruction is evident in her 2013-2014 MAP scores. **From fall to spring, her first grade intervention students scored 27.7% higher than the expected gain based on national norms.**

Shelly Boulden, Madison Kindergarten Academy Principal, is astounded at the impact of Jennifer's work on the students' test scores and is excited about the transformation in her teachers due to Jennifer's collaborative efforts throughout the school.

Principal Boulden says, "The transformation in teachers and teaching has been stunning. The tier one [classroom] work that Ms. Martin has so diligently helped teachers to think through is amazing...[her] ability to effectively coach is empowering all of the adults in the building."

Most recently, Jennifer volunteered to become a leader for the KCM EEMC (Erikson Early Math Collaborative). The EEMC focuses on the Big Ideas in early childhood mathematics and uses popular children's literature as a connection to math concepts.

Jennifer decided to become an EEMC leader when her district moved to all day kindergarten. "This meant even more time for quality mathematics instruction and I felt that [EEMC] would help the Madison Kindergarten Academy, in that," said



Jennifer Martin, MIT, is all smiles about mathematics instruction!

Jennifer. "Teachers in our district love math and are motivated by collegial conversation, and want their practice to increase. I want that, too! So, when the opportunity to become a leader came open, I jumped at it!"

Currently, Jennifer leads an EEMC group of 20 participants in Madison County, and co-leads a group of 21 participants in Fayette County.

Being able to work and grow alongside these groups of participants has been something Jennifer has treasured about her EEMC leadership experience: "I am a believer in that we are continually a community of learners. The teachers that I get to work with share a wealth of knowledge and we get to explore together how the Big Ideas of mathematics play out in early mathematics classrooms."

Jennifer also emphasizes that her decision to become an EEMC leader

was an easy one as the program offers a robust learning opportunity for preschool and kindergarten teachers alike: "The [EEMC] experience has been a great opportunity! The connections to literacy and math are powerful tools that enable young learners to think beyond the scope of the classroom and see math in their world."

It is not just the KCM or the Madison Kindergarten Academy taking notice of Jennifer's hard work. **In October, Jennifer received the Richmond Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year Award.**

"I was floored. Before the awards ceremony, I looked up past recipients and many of the winners were my former teachers and principals. It was a humbling experience to be listed among those rankings," said Jennifer. "I love my job and the grace of it all is that I get to do work that is meaningful and foundational for young learners in mathematics. To be recognized for that is incredible!"

When Jennifer is not being an MIT rock star, she spends her time teaching aerobics (a job she has done for 27 years!), doing yoga, running, or eating Mexican food.

"The community of the KCM is what drives my love for this work and my job," said Jennifer. "I am continually learning from the KCM community. When a group of learners come together to talk about what is best for students, how to work through difficulties in learning, and to share new materials and tools, it is often what motivates me to be better and dig deeper. I couldn't do my job apart from the work of KCM and the community they foster."