



## Taking Root at KCM: A Story of Growth

A quick Google search relates “Fields” to land that is ready for growth. Stephanie Fields, Goal Clarity Coach at Noe Middle School in Jefferson County, has a story (and a last name!) that is full of just that—exciting growth that she has embraced to the fullest.

As a young girl, Stephanie knew mathematics education was her calling as she frequently found herself “playing school.” Humbly, Stephanie explains, “I just wanted to make a difference.”



**Stephanie Fields, Goal Clarity Coach at Noe Middle School in Jefferson County, has established deep roots**

After receiving her B.A. and M.A. in mathematics education from the University of Louisville, Stephanie became a math teacher at Noe Middle School. Despite family obligations that took her to Minnesota for several years, Stephanie returned to Noe Middle School as a Coach in 2012.

What can only be described as a passion-filled relationship with the KCM began when Stephanie, in response to an email announcement, registered for Content Coaching in 2013. Transformed by this experience, she continued with the Content Coaching professional learning experience (PLE) the following year while attending the KCM middle school PLE for sixth grade with two other teachers from her school. The following year, Stephanie said, “Due to the success of

KCM’s sixth grade PLE, my principal allowed myself and three teachers to then attend the KCM seventh grade PLE.”

Describing these experiences, Stephanie explains, “I saw renewed enthusiasm from all of these teachers...The [more] conversations that we had and the more in-depth we went with the math content brought to the forefront how math needs to be taught in order to reach all of our students. We were able to bring back all of our information and resources to the school through grade level professional learning communities in order to increase the knowledge of other teachers in my building.”

One teacher who attended the KCM middle school PLE with Stephanie wrote, “Out of all of the PLEs that I have done, I have taken away the most from this one. Instead of just being told what something was, we actually got to physically explore it in the way our students would. This experience allowed us to put on both our teacher AND student hats and converse about both perspectives at the same time.”

Stephanie explains that due to her school’s involvement with the KCM’s middle school PLEs, several pieces of the PLE have taken strong root at Noe Middle School including development of concepts through use of manipulatives, the building of number sense, growth mindset, and number talks.

Another Noe Middle School teacher who attended these sessions with Stephanie wrote, “The number talks helped my students feel more confident in talking about math. They were very hesitant at first because they are always worried about getting answers incorrect. Once they noticed that people could see and interpret numbers, patterns, shapes, etc. differently, they were more open to share what they saw.”

This past year, Stephanie hosted a Content Coaching cohort at Noe Middle School and is currently part of the KCM Middle School Master Coaching program. “[KCM Master Coaching] was the true experience that helped me be more effective at my own school with my own teachers,” Stephanie emphasizes. “Knowing that a coach needs to help plan prior to a lesson, coach in the classroom during the

lesson, and then debrief and reflect after the lesson is easier said than done. KCM Master Coaching encouraged me to do all three parts and provided me the guidance and support group needed...This experience enforced the benefit of the whole process.”

Stephanie has seen the positive growth that KCM PLEs have had on her perspective as an educator, and has received wonderful support from her principal because of it.

**“The [more] conversations that we had and the more in-depth we went with the math content brought to the forefront how math needs to be taught in order to reach all of our students.”**

Stephanie indicates, “My principal has seen my enthusiasm for the KCM PLEs and what I bring back to the school...Through my involvement, I have gotten many teachers in my building involved and they considered the [KCM] PLEs...to be the best they have attended in a long time.”

And that dream Stephanie had as a young girl to “just make a difference?” It remains steadfast to this day.

All of the KCM PLEs that Stephanie participated in were funded with grants from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). KCM is proud to partner with KDE to provide impactful growth opportunities for Kentucky educators, just like Stephanie.

**To register for a KCM professional learning experience, please visit [www.kymath.org](http://www.kymath.org) and click, “Professional Development.”**