

KCM Good News

Inspiring Connections at 2024 Kentucky Center for Mathematics Conference

The 2024 Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCM) Conference, held on March 4th and 5th, was an extraordinary gathering of educators dedicated to enhancing mathematics achievement across the state. With the theme "Inspire: Creating Meaningful Connections," the conference aimed to foster collaboration and learning among professionals in the field.



Karima Badouan and KCM Regional Consultant Sumer Smith smiling for the camera!

This year's event, held at the bustling Lexington Marriott Griffin Gate, drew an impressive crowd of over 600 attendees, reaching maximum capacity for the venue. Educators from across Kentucky convened to participate in two wonderful Keynote speaker presentations, engaging activities, and over 80 thought-provoking breakout sessions.

The conference boasted two prominent keynote speakers who captivated the audience with their insights and expertise. Dr. Nicki Newton, an esteemed education consultant renowned for her work in elementary math curriculum and instructional strategies, delivered an inspiring address on Monday, March 4th. Chase Orton, an independent consultant and author, took the stage on Tuesday, March 5th, sharing his transformative journey detailed in his book, *The Imperfect and Unfinished Math Teacher*.



Keynote Speaker Dr. Nicki Newton with KCM Regional Consultant Lisa Riggs.



Keynote Speaker Chase Orton inspiring conference attendees during his Keynote presentation.

Another notable highlight of the conference was Chase Orton's participation in a meeting with the KCM Kentucky Math Teacher Leaders (KyMTL). The group, currently participating in a book study on Orton's work, had the opportunity to engage with the author directly, enriching their learning experience.

In addition to the enriching sessions, attendees had the chance to network and socialize during the "Math, Music, and Mingle" mixer sponsored by Hand2Mind. This lively event, held on Monday afternoon, provided a platform for educators to connect with conference exhibitors, enjoy music, indulge in snacks, and even participate in a raffle for exciting prizes- with the grand prize being a math classroom makeover from Hand2Mind!



Participants dive into hands-on learning with smiles and collaboration during engaging conference sessions.

The conference also embraced the playful side of mathematics, hosting math games during lunch on Tuesday. This interactive session offered attendees a fun and engaging way to connect with colleagues while sharpening their mathematical skills.

Reflecting on the success of the event, the KCM cannot express their gratitude enough to the dedicated educators who attended and contributed to the vibrant atmosphere of collaboration and learning. Looking ahead, anticipation is already building for the 2025 KCM Conference, set to take place next March.



Creating connections through fun and games: Conference attendees enjoy math games during Tuesday's lunch.

The 2024 Kentucky Center for Mathematics Conference was not just a gathering of professionals; it was a celebration of the resilience and dedication of Kentucky educators, united in their commitment to inspire and empower the next generation of mathematicians.

