Good News from Munfordville Elementary, Hart County

Stan Wood (pictured right) is a Mathematics Intervention Teacher (MIT) at Munfordville Elementary in Hart County. Mr. Wood is one of nineteen continuing “pioneer MITs” who forged the KCM Primary Mathematics Intervention Program launched in 2006 as a result of House Bill 93 (2005).

Along with his colleagues, Mr. Wood has contributed to amazing gains in students’ mathematics scores on the school’s Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT). In 2007, fewer than half of the students received proficient or distinguished mathematics KCCT scores. Between 2007 and 2011, KCCT mathematics scores _increased by 33.9 percentage points, reaching 81.8% in 2011_!

Mr. Wood has a passion not just for teaching math, but for teaching kids. When asked what he does, the response is “I teach kids.” He feels “kids need someone to listen to them and support their thinking, rather than someone telling them how to do math.”

Wood reflected on the tremendous value of the Mathematics Achievement Fund grant (which funds MIT leadership for school-wide growth).

“A loss of the MAF would stop the growth process, stunt the push for mathematics education, and limit the thinking on numeracy topics.”

Wood also reflected on his own professional growth, “I have grown more as a teacher in these last 5 years, than throughout my previous 18 years of teaching.” His growth is evident, not only in the success of his students, but also in his leadership abilities.

Like many MITs, Wood is a public advocate for the need to improve numeracy statewide. Last year he presented his work and the work of others in the KCM community to more than 300 people at the regional Transforming Education in Kentucky (TEK) Talk. He emphasized the need for teachers to provide robust hands-on-learning for primary students and that bonding with individual students during intervention can produce substantial, sustained, positive results in the form of academic achievement and improved confidence.

Principal Tonya Howard “has many great things to say about him.” “Mr. Wood goes above and beyond to help our students succeed. And, he provides lessons, strategies, and tools for teachers throughout the school district. His performance and commitment to mathematics education has been outstanding.”

“Stan Wood has greatly impacted my students by teaching them number sense in positive and creative ways. They can’t wait to see him each day.”

(Quote from fellow teacher Shelli Templeman)