

Outstanding Mathematics Teacher Leader: Chrystal Rowland



Meet KCM Community Member Chrystal Rowland—Author, Mathematics Intervention Teacher Leader, Master Coach, and state leader.

Starting her college years as a mathematics major, Chrystal's summer job at a daycare center transformed her aspirations, as she realized, "I wanted to teach math to those kids, not just facts and concepts, but how to enjoy math."

After college, with a degree in early childhood education, Chrystal began working at Robert B. Turner Elementary School in Anderson County. When the school received a Math Achievement Fund grant, Chrystal began serving as her school's mathematics intervention teacher leader. She thrived in fulfilling her mission to "create a love of mathematics in our youngest kids through inquiry and support." She credits KCM with providing her the

support and training to be able to accomplish this mission. Working with other dedicated teachers and staff in the KCM community, she discovered how students develop mathematical competencies and built a rich repertoire of strategies and structures to help her students move forward.

Chrystal has shared her specialized expertise with her co-workers, modeling instructional strategies like math talks and open number lines. She says, "Through collaboration we have freed our teachers. We became a community of professionals who learn from each other, share ideas, and problem solve together." She feels that the interactions, knowledge and resources provided by the KCM community have been vital to her growth as a teacher leader.

Mr. Reese, the principal at Robert B. Turner Elementary, says, "Mrs. Rowland assisted all staff and students in need of math assistance. Our KPREP success is a result of the great relationship between her and our math teachers."

Robert B. Turner Elementary School was classified as "Distinguished" for the 2014-15 school year, scoring in the 98th percentile, with a gain of 11.4 percentile points on the percentage of students scoring proficient or distinguished on the KPREP State

Assessment, compared to baseline 2011-12 results.

Chrystal sees the gain in KPREP scores as evidence that high quality math intervention DOES work. She believes that the students at Turner have benefited from having a KCM trained math intervention teacher in their building, even if they did not directly receive services. The impact was felt in mathematics classrooms throughout the school.

Within her exemplary record of professional leadership and service, Chrystal is now an instructional coach at North Washington Elementary School in Washington County and is also Kentucky's first elementary grades "Master Coach," hosting and leading job-embedded professional learning for a community of mathematics coaches from other schools.

Excitingly, the KCM has entered the Blogosphere with the release of a post written by Chrystal Rowland, focused on the first of the National Council of Teachers MTPs (Mathematics Teaching Practices): *Establishing Math Goals to Focus Learning*. Check out this blog post, and stay tuned for more posts from Chrystal addressing the remaining seven MTPs at: p2akcm.blogspot.com.