



Stacey Burton, an MIT (Mathematics Intervention Teacher) at Burnside Elementary in Pulaski County, is one of seven recipients of the Northern Kentucky University Trailblazer for Mathematics Education Award. Stacy is serving her 13<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher and her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as an MIT. She has worked with over 150 mathematics intervention students, helping them to build strong number sense that will allow them to be successful.

Her passion was evident when she declares that “being involved in the KCM community has opened my eyes to the ways students think and develop mathematically. I love watching my students look at a math task and find ways to solve it on their own and then seeing the light in their eyes when they realize they “got it right.”

Stacey says her professional learning experiences have taught her the importance of hands-on learning, regardless of the age of the student, allowing them to use concrete examples to learn and apply abstract ideas.

According to Burnside Principal April Mounce, the school’s achievement scores have grown steadily in the area of mathematics largely due to Stacey’s compassion and ability to motivate students. For example, the 2013-2014 Discovery Education assessment showed that Stacey’s intervention students on average scored 90 scale score points higher in the spring of 2014 than in the beginning of the school year. In reflecting on Burton’s impact, Principal Mounce said, “Our students have not only grown academically and improved their learning in the area of math, but they have grown to look at math differently and learn math differently, leading them to acquire a love of math.”

Burnside is one of the 110 schools in Kentucky that currently receive \$41,000 in mathematics achievement funds per year to have a highly-trained mathematics intervention specialist in their school. Principal Mounce acclaims the school wide benefits that result from Burton informally sharing her expertise and resources with 20 of her teacher colleagues, stating, “Our teachers have learned about techniques and strategies with teaching math that have added to their toolbox of strategies.”

Stacey’s commitment to improving lives even extends beyond the regular school day as she mentors girls who need a positive female role model. Regarding Stacey’s mentoring efforts, Principal Mounce says, “She works with the students on developing a positive self-image and improving their self-esteem. Her work with this group improved the lives of six female students last year and eight female students this year.”

Stacey’s commitment to Kentucky students and teachers is unquestionably valuable as her dedication, hard work, and “above and beyond” attitude brings both a positive impact and shining example to the Commonwealth.