

GOOD NEWS

FROM THE KENTUCKY CENTER
FOR MATHEMATICS



MAF CLASSROOM TEACHER SEES OUTSTANDING KPREP RESULTS

Jonathan Lawson, a Mathematics Achievement Fund (MAF) classroom teacher participating in KCM professional learning, from Whitley County East Elementary, celebrated a huge accomplishment this year- 100% of his 2017-18 fourth graders scored proficient or distinguished on the 2018 KPREP assessment in mathematics!

Lawson became part of the KCM family in 2017, when he was selected by his principal to be an Intermediate Plus Two teacher. He prepared for this position with ten days of in-person professional learning and three coaching visits from his KCM regional consultant. This experience led to a transformation in his classroom.

The MAF professional learning that Lawson received had a major impact on his teaching practices. He discovered that "there are many different ways to teach math and many different ways for students to learn math." Lawson also found that he is most effective as a math teacher when "students are learning from each other, and I am only facilitating and asking questions to get students to explain their thinking."

The expertise gained through KCM courses gave Lawson a newfound confidence in his teaching. He found that giving students freedom to explore can be highly beneficial in their learning. "I am more aware of the fact that my way isn't the only way. I now give students in my classroom the freedom to use math strategies they are most comfortable with."

Lawson also became better equipped to recognize and assist students who may be struggling. Through MAF participation, he has "become better at knowing what students might be struggling with, and how to help bring them to grade level." Helping students understand concepts they are struggling with is Lawson's favorite part of teaching. "I love witnessing when a student finally understands a new concept or strategy," he says, "it is

usually a look that contains both excitement and confidence."

Through his participation in the MAF program, Lawson was able to connect and learn from teachers outside of his own school. "Before my KCM experience, I had only interacted with teachers in my district," he explains, "Being able to get to know teachers from other places in the state, and discuss the various ways we all teach math was incredibly helpful."

Knowledge gained from these sessions allowed Lawson to implement many new and successful strategies in his classroom. He learned that making math fun immensely contributes to student success. Lawson also found technology to be an important learning tool for his students. Through the use of Chromebooks, his students were able to get immediate feedback on their work. "Chromebooks mean there is no downtime," Lawson says, "the students really seemed to enjoy learning this way."

"It is a great way to learn new teaching strategies. Teaching is always evolving; it is important to keep up with those changes."

- JONATHAN LAWSON ON
ATTENDING KCM
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
EXPERIENCES



When he is not in the classroom, Lawson loves traveling. He is hoping to travel to Alaska, Italy and Israel. He also enjoys relaxing and watching TV shows, especially the new "Game of Thrones" season!