

Montgomery County School District Math Teacher Professional Development

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Groundhog Day and the Monday after the Super Bowl

My Background

- PhD in Math Education
- 20 years in the profession working with thousands of undergraduate and graduate students and inservice teachers and dozens of school districts in various capacities
- 18 years providing professional development for K-12 teachers in numerous states and throughout the country
- Approximately 80 professional publications including seven books

My Work with MCSD – Past

Working with Montgomery County mathematics teachers since December 2013.

Worked at different times with Elementary, Middle School, and High School teachers.

Including: group professional development regarding mathematical content, pedagogy, assessment, curriculum development, and technology; classroom observations and team teaching; at both the District Office and in school classrooms.

My Work with MCSD – Present

I continue to work Montgomery County Middle Grades math teachers in the classroom and at the county offices.

My Work with MCSD – Future

This summer: Plans are being formed for me to provide some curriculum development professional development.

Next academic year: Plans are being formed for me to continue working with Middle Grades teachers through the 2015-2016 academic year.

Additional plans are being made to provide professional Development to the Principals.

My Work with MCSD – Hours

I have already provided approximately 250 hours of professional development to Montgomery County mathematics teachers.

Plans are in place for at least 50 more hours through this summer.

Additional future plans may increase my total involvement with Montgomery County to over 380 hours through spring 2016.

The Bigger Picture – Internal Support

MCSD continues to provide cutting edge professional development, materials, resources, and supplies to its K-12 mathematics teachers.

Some of these materials, resources, and supplies as well as some professional development comes from personnel and teams within MCSD district and school personnel.

The Bigger Picture – External Support

Currently, MCSD continues to provide external support for its mathematics teachers.

Elementary teachers are being supported by a consultant, middle grades teachers by me, and high school teachers through an MSP grant with Meredith College.

The Bigger Picture

The resources expended on K-12 math teachers exceeds that which I have seen in any other district.

The number, quality, and amount of the grants attracted by MCSD exceeds anything that I have seen at any other district.

The amount of grade-band specific professional development provided to teachers is without comparison.

The District has made effort to meet every real or perceived need stated by the teachers.

Teacher Results

Teachers are learning new content and developing better teaching and management skills. This growth exceeds that most often seen in other school districts.

Teachers are using better curricular materials. This change has been very efficient.

Teachers are more aware of quality instructional resources and are able to integrate these into their lessons.

Teacher Results

Teachers are collaborating in grade-based and multi-grade teams. Middle Grades teachers in the same grade should be using the same instructional materials.

Teachers know better the curriculum in grades below and above them. (Vertical alignment.)

The teaching culture is maturing.

Classroom management s improving.

Principal Results

Principals are developing in their understanding of what quality mathematics instruction should look like. This includes differentiation between instruction and classroom management.

Principals are recognizing the value of bringing experts into the schools to support their teachers.

Principals are recognizing the use and importance of excellent instructional materials.

Student Results

Students are learning and improving.

Student scores are improving.

Expectations

Successes are being made.

This all takes time, effort, and resources.

Nothing good happens over night.

Nothing happens accidentally.

The Future

Continue the course. Continue doing what you have been doing. Positive strides are being made.

Continue doing as much more as you can afford in resources and manpower. There is still much room for improvement.

As positions open, hire the best possible teachers. Try to keep your best teachers.

Summary

Since MCSD is doing more than any other school district to support and improve your teachers, the growth in teaching and learning will come and will exceed that of other districts.

I applaud your efforts and the work of the district personnel and administrators to support your math teachers and students.