



MILWAUKEE PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY MONTHLY REPORT

September 2009

- Sue Apps and Bill Kritek have been hired to serve as Co-Executive Directors for the MPA.
- An MPA booth was provided at the MPS Administrators/School Leaders Kickoff at Vincent High School on August 21st. Information about the MPA, its initiatives, learning teams and the *Million Father March Back to School* was displayed and distributed.
- The Implementation Team held its first meeting for 2009-10 on September 14th. The Team received several updates including the district's plan for literacy and the work on learning teams, a value-added data presentation and discussion took place, work groups reported out and there was some discussion about online assessments.
- The writing group for the learning teams initiative will be meeting again to discuss teacher concerns that have been brought up and reflect those in the resources that are being developed for learning teams.
- Work has continued on the proposal for a new national Teacher Quality Partnership Grant. The focus is three-fold: major reform and reconstruction of early childhood pre-service preparation, creation of a residency program where students obtain dual certification in regular and special education in a master's degree format, and heavy focus of development of teacher leadership.
- MPA work groups have all begun their meetings for 2009-10 and are working on their work plans as well as continuing their work in progress.
- Teacher & Principal Quality Work Group Update:
 - The work around placement of student teachers and selection of cooperating teachers is continuing. The work group has been looking at how to streamline and refine the process and at development of an online module for cooperating teachers. Discussion just began around possible additional criteria. A revised draft of the student teaching/cooperative teacher document was prepared and is under review.
 - The work group is also currently looking at overall comprehensive induction, recruitment and retention.
- Comprehensive Literacy Work Group Update:
 - Additional individuals from MPA Partner organizations have been added to the various subgroups of the work group. Subgroups held meetings over the summer and will continue to meet throughout the duration of their work.
 - The Writing Project Grant has been approved. NEA Foundation grant funds have been allocated to support NEA Focus School teachers to attend National Writing Project Training and for a planning

team to put the sessions together. The planning team has been meeting and work is in progress. The team will be inviting past National Writing Project (NWP) teacher leaders to join and will be looking at expanding presentation of NWP sessions to all MPS teachers during the Saturday Academies.

- Work is in progress concerning application for a Wisconsin Improving Teacher Quality Program grant. A three-tiered approach including K-12 content area and developmental literacy course offerings is currently being proposed. The deadline for submission is October 9, 2009.
- Work continues with the universities partnership which is putting together coursework that could be offered on a rotational basis and would accrue to a teaching license—a 316 and possibly a 300 license are being considered. Possibility is also being looked at for this partnership to offer coursework during the year for Literacy Coaches to acquire a 316/317 license. Others are also talking about how to support the 316 license as well through other grant competitions and would work with the Literacy Work Group to define it both for current and future Literacy Coaches.
- Family Literacy & Tutoring Work Group Update:
 - Subcommittees of the Family Literacy & Tutoring Work Group met during the summer and continue holding meetings.
 - The tutor training subcommittee met in July and August to update the tutor training material for the 2009-10 school year and discuss training sessions for the remainder of the year. Contacts were made with UWM, Marquette, Manpower, Our Next Generation and St. Mark Church. The first tutor training session took place on September 17th at UWM. The community-wide sessions will be scheduled later in the school year.
 - Assistance was given in manning the MPA booth at the MPS Administrators/School Leaders Kickoff.
 - The Family Literacy & Tutoring (FLT) Coordinator assisted with the *Million Father March Back to School* on September 1st. A team of four men from New Hope Church served as greeters at Garden Homes School. The team talked to more than 40 parents and got contact information for 32 parents who want to be informed about parent involvement opportunities. FLT will contact them for community-wide tutor trainings and other parent involvement opportunities.
 - The FLT Coordinator participated in work sessions for the ESEA District Consolidated Plan from April 22nd to August 5th. The plan was submitted to DPI on September 8th. Updated language in the parent involvement section that relates to the MPA is as follows:

The district continues to collaborate with the Milwaukee Partnership Academy on a tutoring and family literacy project. Tutoring and adult/family education programs focus on improving achievement in literacy and mathematics. Tutor training began in 2005-06 and is continuing. Trained tutors have been placed at after-school sites, including MPS Community Learning Centers (CLC's), recreation sites, and community-based sites. During the 2008/09 school year Milwaukee Partnership Academy trained approximately 245 tutors in eight sessions at diverse locations. The trainings provided more in-depth sessions for reading and mathematics tutors. MPS personnel works with Milwaukee Partnership Academy to ensure that the tutor trainings are aligned to the standards-based curriculum taught during the day. In the 2009/10 school year the collaboration will focus on increasing the number of parents and other adults working with students in the home, and community and faith based agencies. Through organized groups with parental representation, the district continues to increase efforts to involve parents in the education of their children through after-school tutoring, and through working

collaboratively with them so that they have the tools and resources to conduct effective tutoring in the home setting. The collaboration with MPA will strengthen existing tutoring programs, link parents to tutorial sites and trained volunteers to a cross section of volunteer opportunities.

- Comprehensive Mathematics Work Group Update:
 - There is continued involvement of UWM, MATC and MPS in the Milwaukee Mathematics Partnership.
 - Two new MPS Math Curriculum and Instruction Supervisors have been hired—Sharonda Harris for grades K-6 and Dan Lotesto for grades 7-12. These positions replaced the previous MPS Math Curriculum Specialist position.
 - The same ten Math Teaching Specialists are back again this year.
 - Math Teacher Leaders (MTLs) are in the schools again this year—approximately 116 are released and approximately 40-50 are non-released and have different responsibilities from those who are released. It is very difficult to release MTLs at small high schools. Some schools are on a waiting list to have their MTL released. Currently released MTLs are funded from the Governor’s money.
 - An MTL Kickoff event for the 2009-10 school year was held on August 25th. Keynote speakers were DPI Mathematics Consultant, Diana Kasbaum, and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) President, Henry “Hank” Kepner.
 - In May and June the district asked all schools to attend either the School Improvement Plan (SIP) Training or the Data Retreat. There they had to plan for professional development around mathematics. Schools took the information from their spring monitoring conference and built on it with their SIP and built upon it again at the Principal/MTL Retreat. Observations indicate conversations are more refined, things are becoming more embedded in the schools and principals have a new energy about mathematics.
 - Math Teaching Specialists will hold meetings called monitoring sessions at each school with the principal, MTL and other key teachers about the plans they developed last June and focus on clarifying the MTL role.
 - Getting qualified math teachers into the district as well as around the country is a continuing problem. Dan Lotesto has met with Human Resources concerning speeding up/improving the hiring processes.
 - Math Labs will continue and are being developed for the 2009-10 school year. Offerings will include an Algebra 2/Trig lab.
 - For additional information on the work of the Milwaukee Mathematics Partnership (MMP), please see the attached August 2009 issue of *The MMP Messenger* and the September 2009 issue of the *MMP Math Minutes*.
- The Skunkworks Work Group is holding discussion about what could be done to expand the work group to perhaps double its current size, revisiting the relationship with what the work group has been doing (parent involvement and mostly student involvement) and engaging the MPA as a whole in the projects. The work group will also focus on provoking new ways of thinking about things relative to education.

- NEA Foundation Grant Update:
 - The first professional development day for 2009-10 NEA Focus Schools took place on September 12th. Close to 150 principals, literacy coaches, math teacher leaders, building representatives, curriculum generalists, new Focus School teachers and guests from their schools were in attendance. The focus of the day was to paint a big picture for the participants from the NEA Focus Schools on what the work will look like for the year ahead and where their work fits into the big picture. Sessions were offered on implementing the Comprehensive Literacy Plan, the new MPS EdStat and its relationship to district initiatives and the School Improvement Plan, best practices in writing, mathematics initiatives and adopted curriculum, being an effective new teacher in an NEA Focus School, and DIFI and the technical support available. Attendees were addressed by the MPS Superintendent and Director of Educational Services, the MTEA President, and the Principal Investigator of the grant. School teams engaged in reflection and discussion at the end of the day. Evaluations have not yet been compiled; however, positive verbal feedback has been received.
 - Four Focus group meetings were held with teachers and educational assistants to advance teacher leadership. Three themes emerged: 1) lack of communication, 2) lack of consistency, and 3) need for accountability. A report was submitted to the Steering Team of the NEA Foundation grant.
 - South Division posted the largest gain in reading for the district in Read 180 and WKCE scores also went up 12.3 percent.
- An article by MPA member Bama Brown-Grice on tips to help your child get a great education was printed in WEAC's "Classroom Connections" annual publication for 2009-2010. Also in this publication was a message of encouragement and information about the PTA from PTA President Roxanne Starks, also an MPA member.

The date of the next MPA Partners Meeting is TBD.

Our Mission

The purpose of the Milwaukee Partnership Academy (MPA) is to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). The broad initiative of the MPA is to ensure that every child in the Milwaukee Public Schools is performing at or above grade level in reading, writing, and mathematics through shared responsibility for student success. The framework for the initiative is balanced literacy and mathematics: a comprehensive literacy program that provides skill development across all curricular areas and focuses on reading, writing, listening, speaking, deep thinking, and research skills; a comprehensive mathematics program that provides students an understanding of mathematical concepts, an ability to accurately and appropriately compute, an ability to solve mathematical problems by applying concepts, an ability to provide reasoning to solutions to problems, and an ability to see mathematics as useful and doable.



www.mmp.uwm.edu

The MMP Messenger

Volume 7, Issue 1

The goal of *The MMP Messenger* is to enhance communication and foster discussion among the Math Teacher Leader (MTL), the Principal, and the Learning Team. *MMP Messenger* is distributed following each MTL monthly meeting. Documents presented at the monthly MTL meetings can be accessed through the MPS portal or the MMP website at www.mmp.uwm.edu.

The 2009 DRAFT of the Revised Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Mathematics (WMAS): A Vision of Standards-based Mathematics

Math Teacher Leaders were able to get a deeper look at a draft of the revised state standards for mathematics. Important changes to the *Draft Revised WMAS* document include: 1) Three consistent standards that span PK-12, 2) Narratives that set out the big mathematical ideas and learning goals within each grade band and 3) Developmental continuums that highlight knowledge and skill acquisition for specific grade bands. MTLs went through a process of comparing and contrasting the *Draft WMAS* to the *WI State Assessment Descriptors*, MTLs started to understand the difference between standards and descriptors. They appreciated the connected vision of mathematics instruction presented in the standards. MTLs saw numerous possibilities for professional development with their teachers, as well as potential applications with parents. Reaction to the revised standards was very positive and our leaders are excited about exploring the draft version of these standards.

Formative Assessment in the Classroom

Using an article from Wisconsin Teacher of Mathematics, Spring 2009, "Linking Principles of Formative Assessment to Classroom Practice" (Huinker & Freckmann, 2009), MTLs revisited the 10 formative assessment principles that guide the work of the MMP along the Learning Team Continuum. After reading and discussing each formative assessment principle, MTLs formed groups to work with a particular principle. MTLs presented their principle in light of how that principle might appear in teachers' mathematical conversations and classroom observations. They identified MMP tools available to support their assigned formative assessment principle. Lastly, they tied the principles to the Learning Team Continuum stages. Creating a working plan, MTLs estimated where they thought teachers in their buildings were in their use and understanding of each formative assessment principle. MTLs identified which principle they would focus their work around this fall.

Looking Ahead...

- *Summer NSF forms are due to the Math Teaching Specialists, September 18.
- *October K-12 MTL meetings, 10/6, 10/8 or 10/14. Enroll for one date!

Exciting News to Kick-Off the Kick-Off

It is the goal of the MMP to keep the MTLs on the cutting edge of the most current research and information available regarding mathematics instruction. Two keynote speakers led off our 2009-2010 MMP Kick-Off for MTLs! The first speaker was Dr. Henry "Hank" S. Kepner, Jr., President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). As President of NCTM, Hank has been working closely with the National Governors' Association and the Chief State School Officer's in their development of *Common Core Standards*. He has also met with Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, on various mathematics initiatives.

Diana Kasbaum, Mathematics Consultant, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction introduced the MTLs to the *DRAFT of the Revised 1998 Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Mathematics (WMAS)*. As the person leading the revision task force team, Diana explained the process used to develop the document. The *DRAFT WMAS* is structured according to grade bands PK-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Each grade band includes a narrative of the mathematics content students need to develop and the processes students need to engage in to help deepen understanding of those ideas. There is a continuum that delineates how an idea grows and develops across the grade band. The format selected to write the standards is unique from any other state in the United States!

It is important to note that Milwaukee was well represented in the process! Team members include Henry Kranendonk, Kevin McLeod, DeAnn Huinker as well as two Math Teaching Specialists. MTLs were encouraged to go to the DPI website <http://dpi.wi.gov/cal/standards-revision.html> to become familiar with current *DRAFTS of the WMAS*. Feedback from national reviewers has been very positive! Hank assured the MTLs that the revision of the WI State Standards is consistent with the expectations established at the national level. Ask your MTL to share some of the components of the standards with your Learning Team and then determine how to start using them with teachers in your building!



September 2009

MMP MATH MINUTES

www.mmp.edu



Volume 3 Issue 11

The goal of *The MMP Math Minutes* is to improve communication and foster discussion among the high school math teachers, the Principal, and the Learning Team. *MMP Math Minutes* is distributed monthly.

WELCOME BACK!

Important Dates

September 9, 2009	Math Dept Chair Meeting
October 29-30, 2009	WEAC Convention

MATH CURRICULUM SPECIALIST NAMED

Dan Lotesto, former math teacher at Riverside High School, is the new math curriculum specialist for MPS. He will focus on grades 7 through 12, while Sharonda Harris, will be the math curriculum specialist for grades K-6.

Dan has been a very active member of our MPS math family throughout his years of service—some of his many jobs have been: MTEA negotiating team member, teacher-in-residence for MMP grant, math instructional coach, “chair of chairs” for 2008-2009 school year, math department chairperson, calculus teacher, workshop presenter, past chairperson of Mathematical Association of America Special Interest Group on Teaching Advanced High School Mathematics, and current chairperson of the SAT Mathematics Development Committee for College Board.

He is looking forward to working with all of you and helping you with the ever increasing challenges of teaching math to our students. Even though he will miss being in the classroom with students, he is ready to take on the task of continuing to improve math education in our schools. We are indeed lucky to have such an accomplished and dedicated individual as our new leader.

WELCOME NEW MATH TEACHERS

Welcome to all new math teachers. We are looking forward to an exciting year of teaching math with our new math series. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our high school math teaching specialists:

Mary Mooney at mooneyme@milwaukee.k12.wi.us
Laura Maly at guzmanlm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

Please check your email frequently for any announcements of math professional development activities and other math happenings in our MPS math community.

MATH ODDS AND ENDS

Did you know that.....

$$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$$

$$A\% \text{ of } B = B\% \text{ of } A$$

Puzzler:

What is the largest 3 digit number that can be written?

MATH LABS WILL CONTINUE

Many of you attended the **Algebra** and **Geometry labs** held at the Marshall Complex during the 2008-2009 school year. Under the capable leadership of Kevin McLeod from UWM, much help was provided to teachers to help them with using the investigations included in the *Discovering Mathematics* series. Kevin, along with Gary Luck and Bill Mandella from UWM and Mary Mooney and Laura Maly, high school math teaching specialists, will be developing the labs for the 2009-2010 school year. This year an **Algebra2/Trig lab** will be added to the offerings.

Please check your emails frequently for news about the times that these labs will be offered. Try to give all math teachers from your building the opportunity to attend.

NEW MATH BOOKS

The new algebra2/trig books adopted by MPS should be in your buildings at this time. *Discovering Advanced Algebra* is part of the *Discovering Math* series that we are currently using in our algebra and geometry classes. Hopefully our students will transition more easily from one course to the next when we are using the same series for all three of the courses.

Interesting Math Fact

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar!!