



Math in the Middle The OPS Cohort



We are pleased to announce a second opportunity for outstanding OPS middle-level (grade 5-8) mathematics teachers to participate in Math in the Middle. Last fall a grant from the National Science Foundation enabled 20 Omaha Public Schools middle level teachers to participate in the Math in the Middle Institute graduate program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This year, we received a supplemental grant that will fund the participation of 10 additional OPS teachers. OPS teachers selected for the program will have the opportunity to earn a master's degree from UNL while developing their mathematical and pedagogical knowledge and their leadership potential. In turn, teachers selected for the program are expected to work with their peers and district personnel to improve mathematics teaching and learning in OPS schools (grades 5-8). Special emphasis will be placed on efforts to improve student achievement of all OPS students, while reducing the achievement gap between diverse student populations.

Interested teachers are invited to apply for the program. Applications and additional information can be obtained from the Math in the Middle Web site (<http://scimath.unl.edu/mim>) or by contacting Jim Harrington, OPS Supervisor of Mathematics, at 557-2442. In order that teachers selected for the program can begin coursework in Fall 2009, applications are due Tuesday, September 8, 2009. Selection decisions will be made by Friday, September 18, 2009. The first class will be held Saturday, October 3, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Benefits of Participating in Math in the Middle

- ✦ Earn a Master's Degree from UNL that is rich in mathematics content and pedagogy.
 - ✦ 12-course, Math in the Middle curriculum.
 - ✦ Tuition and most fees waived for teachers
 - ✦ Outstanding support from the instructional team.
 - ✦ Courses will be offered on site at the TAC building
- ✦ Participants will receive a \$5,000/semester salary supplement, Fall 2009 to Spring 2011, a \$20,000 value.
- ✦ In addition to academic year coursework, teachers selected for the program will participate in a 4-week summer institute in 2010 and a 2-week summer institute in 2011. They will receive a \$1,000/week stipend during each summer institute.
- ✦ Salary advancement based on graduate education. (An OPS teacher with a Master's Degree earns \$5,165 more than a new teacher with a bachelor's degree.)

Math in the Middle Teacher Expectations

- ✦ Commit the time and effort needed to succeed in a challenging graduate program.
- ✦ Commit to sharing what you learn with peers and working with district personnel, your principal, and your fellow teachers to strengthen OPS student achievement in math for grades 5-8. While the minimum commitment is to the period of the grant (Fall 2009 – Spring 2011), it is anticipated that participants will benefit OPS students for many years to come.

For more information:

- ✦ Come to a Math in the Middle information meeting scheduled at the TAC building.

Thursday, August 27, 4 p.m.

Board Dining Room inside the 5th floor cafeteria

- ✦ Send questions to Jim Harrington, OPS Supervisor of Mathematics, (james.harrington@ops.org) or to Math in the Middle (msquared@unl.edu).

Comments from Past Participants of Math in the Middle

"Math in the Middle is one of the most challenging, yet rewarding, programs I have ever gone through. The work is intense and sometimes stressful, but very applicable to my classroom teaching. I know that I have become a stronger teacher since I started Math in the Middle and highly recommend it to anyone who wants to become a better teacher! One piece of advice: Rely on those around you. Everyone will make it through if you all work together."

"This has been one of the greatest opportunities that I've had in developing into the educator I want to become. Math in the Middle is a top-notch program that focuses on teacher understanding and development. I've never felt so important as a teacher as I do in this program."



Math in the Middle Institute Partnership

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