



Math in the Middle

December 2007



Congratulations go out to Megan (Kelly) Abresch, one of our Cohort 2 Math in the Middle participants who received her Master's degree in August. The following article was reprinted with permission from NTV in Kearney.

Abresch Named NTV Outstanding Teacher

An early Christmas surprise came to the Wallace School in Hastings Friday afternoon. The kids were all waiting in anticipation as one of their teachers was about to be named NTV's "Outstanding Teacher" by our own Kent Boughton.

Megan Abresch teaches fifth grade at the school and has impacted the lives of lots of her students.

"I just love her so much. She's taught me more than just science and math. She's taught me just to be myself." Katelyn Shriver

"I'm just very overwhelmed. I work with a wonderful group of kids and I just love my job. And to think that I'm making a difference and an impact and touching their lives, it just means the world to me," Abresch said.

After the presentation of the award, the school had a reception for Mrs. Abresch.

This link will take you to video of Megan's award presentation:

<http://www.nebraska.tv>

If I Could Teach You, Teacher

If I could teach you, teacher,
I'd teach you how much more
you have accomplished
than you think you have.
I'd show you the seeds
you planted years ago
that are now coming into bloom.
I'd reveal to you the young minds
that have expanded under your care,
the hearts that are serving others
because they had you as a role model.
If I could teach you, teacher,
I'd show you the positive effect
you have had on me and my life.
Your homework is
to know your value to the world,
to acknowledge it, to believe it.
Thank you, teacher.

By Joanna Fuchs

Teaching Tips

The following teaching tips have been provided by some of our Math in the Middle participants who, through their experience, know first-hand that these strategies have been successful for them.

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"Cut up slats from old mini-blinds to use as straight-edges."

- Sandi Snyder (Cohort 1)

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" A quick 1, 2, or 3 question quiz the day after a new lesson gives the teacher a quick check as to who needs to have a little reteaching. This is when I use the special education paraeducators or teachers when possible, and they pull those kids aside and talk to them about what they need help with. When I am the only one available, I have just used the last 10 minutes of class when students are beginning a homework assignment to do a little re-teaching. A teacher could also use the missed problems as warm-ups for the next day as reteaching. It holds the kids a little more accountable on a daily basis and helps give me a formative assessment that helps learning."

- Kristin Johnson (Cohort 1)

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"Work on teaching your students to work together. Do not assume putting desks together makes a team."

- Amy Nebesniak (Cohort 2)