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From: "Kathleen Pena" <kpena@wvusd.org>

Date: Fri, Aug 21, 2015 at 10:57 AM -0700

Subject: Thank you for Kristen Acosta as Math Coach

To: "Cheryl Lesikar" <clesikar@wvusd.org>

Cc: "Sonia Gonzalez" <sgonzalez@wvusd.org>, "Kristen Acosta" <kacosta@wvusd.org>

Dear Cheryl,

I just want to thank you for allowing Kristen Acosta to lead my class in a math lesson. She is a wonderful math coach and I learned a lot about how to teach prime and composite numbers. My goal was to get a better grasp of the concept using Kristen as my resource. Having this kind of hands on training in my actual classroom was invaluable because it gave me the opportunity to see Kristen use student friendly vocabulary, visual cues and most importantly laying a foundation that I can teach from on a regular basis to my students.

I also wanted to add that the trust factor was huge when having a common core coach in my classroom and not think of her presence or any other coaches presence as being evaluative. Kristen fits the bill perfectly because she communicated openly and was available for questions on my goal for this lesson. We were able to work together for student learning in a way that would make John Antonetti proud of the steps Kristen and I took together towards forming a professional learning community.

As a teacher, I am willing to take the risk and shift my teaching in a direction that will be best for student engagement but is definitely easier when I have a coach like Kristen that I can trust, risk and share with. This was just my lightbulb moment that I wanted to share with you because it felt right to give a shout out to you and the district office for making this happen.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Pena
Merlinda
4th grade.