

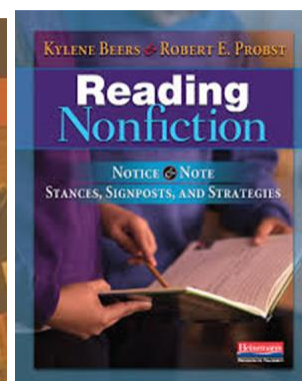
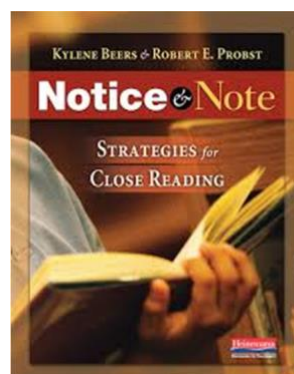


# Striving Readers

Kent County Public Schools



## Kylene Beers and Bob Probst Visit KCPS AGAIN!



On March 4-6 KCPS hosted two well-known authors and consultants, Kylene Beers and Robert Probst to provide professional development to administrators, literacy coaches, and a core group of teachers. This opportunity was a continuation of the learning strategies in literacy that were presented to teachers and administrators last year when these authors visited KCPS.

The authors met with administrators first to highlight strategies found in their books: *Reading Nonfiction* and *Notice and Note*. They also presented ways administrators could keep the momentum going with teachers about what they had learned. The outcomes of the professional development were to increase the level of engagement with application of *Notice and Note* strategies by students, to increase student to student discourse, to increase independent reading of complex text, and to implement the *Notice and Note* strategies in the classroom.

Kylene Beers and Robert Probst met with a core group of teachers, visited their classrooms, and then modeled lessons using their reading strategies. They were engaging and kept both teachers' and students' attention. After visiting and modeling lessons in the classrooms the authors met with teachers to deliver feedback and assistance as teachers began planning lessons using these reading strategies.

These quotes from teachers is a testament to the powerful professional development and message these consultants presented over three days.

“Kylene and Bob showed us different ways of engaging students in literature. They helped us dive deeper into the literature so that it gave us a more insightful understanding of what we were reading.” - Chessie Calloway

“Invigorating, inspirational and extremely entertaining” -Kim Maney

“Kylene and Bob introduced a vast amount of strategies that allow students to dive deeper and think deeply about what they are reading.” - Courtney Spiering

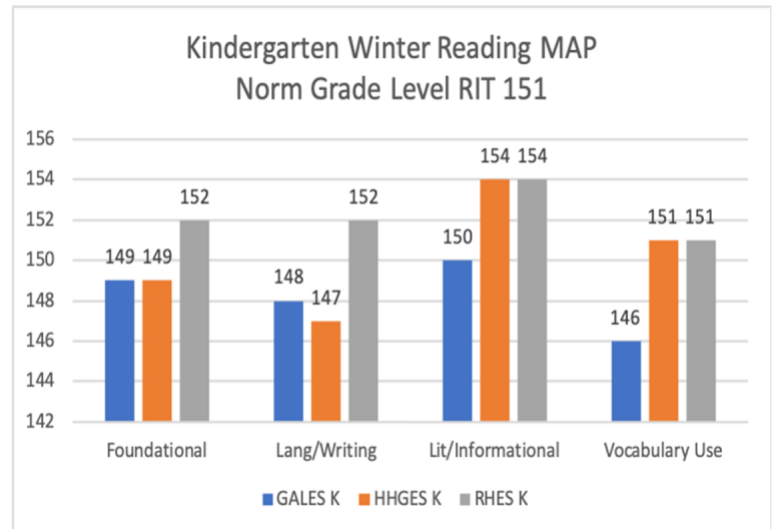
Kylene Beers and Bob Probst put a spark of creativity back in my teaching that was so timely and needed. Their insightful and intelligent understanding of the needs of students and teachers is so appreciated. – Julie Anderson

Kylene and Bob were excellent partners in helping us to create a curriculum that meets kids where they are, and helps them tap into their own inquisitive nature. – Sara McCown

We look forward to their return in the Fall when they will work with a new group of core teachers, the literacy coaches, and administrators as they continue to teach us about the best practices in reading!

## Winter MAP Scores For Kindergarten

For the first time ever, our kindergarten students took the MAP test this winter. In the fall kindergarten students take the KRA which provides a wealth of data for the teachers and helps them provide the best instruction for each student. This winter we added the MAP test for our Kindergarteners. Seeing how well the students performed on the MAP test in comparison to the national mean score showed us that our students are working hard to be on track for first grade. Way to go Kindergarten!



## Presentation to the Daughters of the American Revolution



The Literacy Leadership Team was invited to speak at the February meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It was a wonderful opportunity to share current literacy programs in our schools and for us to learn more about their organization. The team also presented data to support the continued progress Kent County students are making in literacy. During the presentation members asked many questions and wanted to know ways in which they could support literacy in Kent County. Each member received the Early Learning brochure and a recent newsletter showcasing programs supported by the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy grant. President, Kate Goldberg, thanked the Literacy Leadership Team by presenting the school system with a monetary donation towards buying books for children to read.

## Student Spotlight

6<sup>th</sup> grade students wrote about a time when something **unexpected** happened on Revision Assistant.

### The Unexpected Pasta Squares (from a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at KCMS)

The first time I tried pasta squares was in October at my grandmother's clean, cute, light blue house. It was one night when I was having dinner at my grandma's house. My grandmother is sweet, awesome, and fun to be around. She always makes the best food *ever*, including macaroni, sausage, soup, and bacon, but always enjoys making them too. She's a master chef! On this particular night, I smelled something that I've never smelled before, so I went into the kitchen with a wooden floor and a thousand cookbooks.

"What are you making?" I asked her.

"Pasta squares," she answered mysteriously.

I'd never heard of those before. I tried to look over the edge of the pan where she was cooking the meal, but I couldn't quite see. After a short time, I decided to wait until dinner because I couldn't find out what the pasta squares were until they were right on the table. In the meantime, I went to play with my brothers on the Nintendo Switch. "See you at dinner!" I said to my grandma.

A few minutes later, my grandma called me in excitedly with her sweet voice that made me smile. I was *really* hungry and couldn't wait to find out what the mysterious pasta squares were...

I sat down, anxious to eat, but then I looked at the pasta squares on the table. They smelled disgusting and had this cheesy paste oozing out of them. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone think to eat those?" while wrinkling my nose. I quickly moved on to looking at the other food on the table. When I look, I see... salad. I don't like salad, but I'll take it over pasta squares. I sneakily try to avoid the pasta squares at all costs and just get the salad, and until now, I've succeeded!

But I celebrate my victory too soon. My grandma gives me some pasta squares anyway. "You'll like them if you try them!" she said all happy.

Everybody starts eating. I looked again at the cheesy, disgusting, horrible pasta squares on the table. I *knew* I wouldn't like them.

"XXXX, eat your food! I promise you'll like my pasta squares," my grandma said again.

I look around the table. My brothers seem to like them. Although, they do like many things that I don't like. Finally, I try a tiny bite first and think, "Not bad," so I try another bite. I liked it even more, surprisingly, so I took a huge bite and exclaimed, "This is delicious!"

I kept eating and eating the pasta squares and finally finished them all off before everyone else at the table, including my brother, who could eat a horse!

"I knew that you'd like them!" my grandma chimed.

I smirk at her and say, "Yeah, yeah, all right."

Lastly, at the end of dinner, I helped my grandma clear the table and thanked her again for the pasta squares.

So that's how I ended up really liking those pasta squares that I thought would be disgusting. It surprised me, but I'm really glad I tried them!

### Expect the Unexpected (from a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at KCMS)

I was at girl scout camp when me and my friend did something, we'd both never expected to happen. It was me and my friend Lilah. Suddenly, Lilah had an idea. "We should tell a creepy story to all of the other girls in the surrounding tents," she yelled out to me.

I expected this little joke of ours to not follow through, but to our luck, it did. Lilah was telling all the others the story, while I was outside laughing from behind the tent. "There was a girl who came to this camp when she was 9," She started. "She was sitting on the edge of the tent, looking up at the darkness above her. When unexpectedly, she felt something tugging at her legs. She didn't think much of the small interaction, until she was pulled into the woods by that same force. She was holding an empty can of bugspray, and an empty can of sunscreen. She let go of the things in hope someone would notice her absence." Lilah finished, then she was looking into the woods. She was holding onto the support beam and was looking around outside for anything equal, to her luck, she spotted an empty can of bugspray and an empty can of sunscreen.

She randomly decided to point at the bottles, to see if no one else would notice her actions. Most of them decided to look off to where she was pointing too, and when she got all of their eyes on her, she jumped out of the tent, getting the two bottles and coming back up. **Once she was done crawling into the tent, she said, "That's your proof!"** As she looked at the tent's flap and didn't touch it, as I thought she would. Instead, she threw the bottles back outside. All the other girls looked shocked, like they literally saw a ghost. Me and Lilah looked back at the girls and told them it was just a fake story, and we wanted to have a little fun before the week passed. The girls left the tent, once they were all outside, we could hear some telling each other their opinions on the little prank, as some kept quiet or laughed.

Towards the end of the day, it was about 7 P.M. I was sitting where the girl would have been sitting in my tent, and I was eating an apple. I felt something lightly brush my leg. I thought this was just the monster from our little story, and threw the apple core under my tent, hoping I hit whatever that thing was that touched me. **I didn't realize it was just one of the girls trying to give me a little scare until I looked under the tent.** I came back to get my stuff and to see if anything was under my tent. I only saw my apple core and bugs. **When it was time to go, Me and Lilah spent the car ride home laughing and talking about how the week was.**