

Bancroft Elementary: Teacher-led change.

When long-time Minneapolis Public Schools educator and administrator Erin Glynn rallied people around a multi-year plan for academic growth at Bancroft Elementary, we took note.

Bancroft, an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school, is located squarely between three highest-need neighborhoods on East 38th street and serves a diverse student body: 39 percent black, 28 percent Latino, 20 percent white, 9 percent Native American and 3 percent Asian.

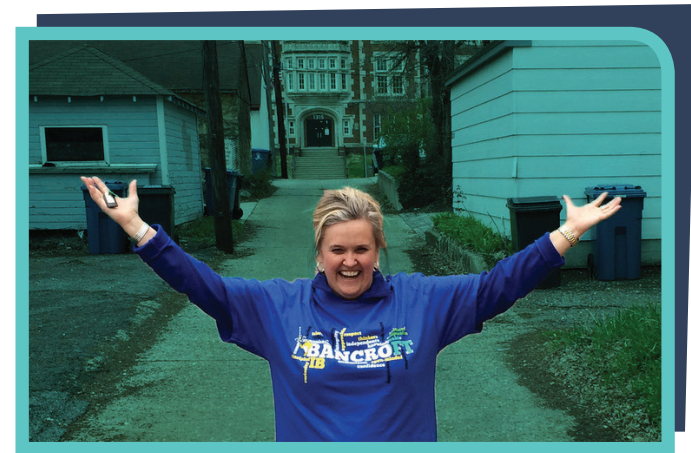
Erin and her teachers wanted to make school-based decisions that better meet students' needs. And, in 2014, following the Minnesota Department of Education designating Bancroft a 'Focus' school, she worked with her teachers to re-imagine a school that is academically strong and culturally relevant.

Their roadmap set a high academic bar: Increase MCA math and reading proficiency by five percentage points each school year. Two years in, Bancroft reading scores increased by 10 percent – exceeding their goal. But math scores lagged. This is where we came in.

To address the lagging math scores, Bancroft teachers researched various math curriculums and piloted one that they believed would better meet the needs of their students. Upon achieving promising results, Bancroft applied for an investment from Great MN Schools. With the extra support, Bancroft teachers were able to access best-in-class professional development resources as they implemented the new, school-wide math curriculum.

And the results are coming in. Fourth grade math proficiency this year increased to 57 percent from 33 percent in the 2015-16 school year.

Bancroft set their bar high, but together, they are clearing that bar.



Bancroft Principal Erin Glynn

AS AN IB SCHOOL, BANCROFT CREATED A SCHEDULE TO ALLOW FOR TEACHERS TO HAVE EXTENDED COLLABORATION & PLANNING TIME... THE RESULT: MORE ENGAGING LESSONS LEADING TO GREATER STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

