



## TEACHER FEATURE

### Austin Maples

My name is Austin Maples and I have the great privilege to teach 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Montgomery County Accelerated Academy about mathematics. I attended Union College where I received my B.A. in Secondary Education and Mathematics. I have been teaching in the Montgomery County School System for two and a half year. Prior to working in Montgomery County, I completed my student teaching at Corbin Independent High school.

Presently I am teaching 7th Grade Algebra I, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. In each of my classes I challenge my student to think critically and analytically about the world of mathematics. I want each of them to make connections between mathematical content and the world in which they live. This school year my main focus has been to create a classroom that is student-centered, focusing on learning that guides students to think for themselves and discover multiple pathways to solve mathematical problems. At the end of this school year, I want students to leave my classroom as problem solvers who can analyze real world mathematical problem and create and defend solutions to those problems.

As a graduate of Montgomery County Schools I am very excited to be teaching in Montgomery County. I became a teacher, in large part, due to the great educators who truly cared about me during my time as a student at Mapleton, McNabb, and MCHS. I take great pride in this school district, and I am proud to be a small part of the achievements our students have made over the last two and a half years.



## **TEACHER FEATURE**

### **Andrea Kirby**

My name is Andrea Kirby and I have the wonderful opportunity to teach 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> students at Montgomery County High School about agriculture. I attended the University of Kentucky where I received my bachelor's and master's degrees. I have been teaching in the Montgomery County School System for 3 years. Prior to working in Montgomery County I taught for 1 year at the University of Kentucky, where I completed a teaching assistantship.

Since I teach the Introduction to Agriculture classes (9<sup>th</sup> grade students) and the Environmental Science classes (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students), my students are learning different concepts. My freshmen are gaining a basic understanding and appreciation for agriculture by learning a variety of concepts that include animal sciences, environmental sciences, plant sciences, and agricultural mechanics. My upperclassman students are learning about forestry management, silviculture, and soil sciences. These concepts will benefit the students throughout their lives by building the foundation of where our food comes from and teaching the students how important it is to continue to manage our natural resources in order to feed a growing population.

I love teaching because everyday I have the opportunity to share my passion with students. It is truly rewarding when I see my passion has been passed on to my students. I have the opportunity to make an impact on the next generation each day and there are very few careers that can be said about. That is why I love teaching the most, to help make the next generation the best generation.