



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Mathematics educators honor Spruiell of Stripling ES**

A Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) teacher, who as a child had many questions but no answers in math class, has been recognized as an excellent mathematics educator. The Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCTM) selected Gwinnett's **Kathy Spruiell**, a mathematics instructional coach at **Stripling Elementary**, as the recipient of the 2011 Excellence in Mathematics Teaching Award – Elementary. Each year, GCTM gives recognition to mathematics teachers from around the state, naming top educators at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Ms. Spruiell received her award for the elementary honor during the Georgia Mathematics Conference.

“I feel honored to have been chosen by and from such a distinguished group of professionals,” says Ms. Spruiell. “Every year math teachers from all over the state go above and beyond to advance math instruction and serve as leaders and innovators to support continual improvement in the area.” Ms. Spruiell admits that mathematics actually was not her favorite subject when she was a young student. But she explains that it was due to the fact that she often could not find the answers to the questions she had about why math works the way it does. As an educator, her goal is for her students not to have the same experience. She explains, “Once I decided to be a teacher I knew that I always wanted to be able to help my students understand the ‘how’ and ‘why’ of the math they were exploring. I love it when kids say, ‘OOOOHHHH!! This is how it works! I get it!’.”

Kathy Spruiell joined Gwinnett County Public Schools in 2001 bringing several years of teaching experience from Alabama where she earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Birmingham-Southern College. Her teaching career continued in Gwinnett as a mathematics specialist at Simonton Elementary. She also taught at Gwin Oaks Elementary (2007-2010) before becoming the mathematics instructional coach at her current school. In addition to her undergraduate degree, Ms. Spruiell also holds a master's degree in Elementary Mathematics Education from Walden University, and is working on her specialist's degree in Teacher Leadership from Piedmont College.

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