



Math Minutes Memo

November/December 2014

Curriculum alignment notes:

- **Sequence of Instruction:**
 - Those in attendance provided feedback and suggestions for restructuring the current sequence of instruction documents for 6th, 7th, 8th, and Algebra II. We will revisit the documents at further meetings as well to be sure we are maintaining equity across the district for the different content areas.
 - The current SOI documents will be replaced with updated versions for the school year 2015-16 to reflect conversations through the curriculum alignment meetings. Your feedback and input is crucial to this process. Meetings will resume after the winter break beginning in January.
 - We will also be identifying “Power Standards” for each quarter in the documents to ensure we are covering main essential content.
- **Grading Policy:**
 - We will continue to revisit this topic in future meetings. The goal is to have a common structure in place for the following school year.

Resources: Our teachers are hard at work creating great learning experiences for our kids. The following are a few of the resources that have been recommended.

Lesson Planning:

- Shmoop, <http://www.shmoop.com/>, offers access to a collection of various math resources. Although the items are connected to common core, the options are very user friendly and has great drill and practice exercises.
- Learnzillion, <https://learnzillion.com/>, provides a bank of free lesson plans and teaching videos covering content areas of 6-8, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II.
- Virtual Nerd, <http://www.virtualnerd.com/>, has a collection of short tutorial videos for 6-8, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and ACT math topics. This could be a resource for students at home or even as being incorporated into a station activity in the classroom.
- Most educators would agree that it is important for students to stay current with today’s research and developments. The Newspaper in Education Teacher Resources site, <http://www.nieteacher.org/#math>, provides numerous instructional resources that encourage students from all grade levels to explore current events. The “Math, Science, Tech & Environment” section has many available and each icon will produce multiple pages and/or ideas to incorporate into lessons. Please go to the site to view them individually.
- CPALMS, <http://www.cpalms.org/resources/PublicPreviewResourceCollection.aspx?ResourceCollectionId=202>, has a collection of formative assessment tools and resources for content topics of middle school through Geometry. Numerous activities are available.

Announcements

The First Annual Best Practice Lesson Exchange!

Let's get together for some tram building with our amazing peer teachers and enjoy some tasty holiday treats. Like a cookie exchange, bring 15 copies of 2 of your favorite/best lesson plans to share, and leave with 15 new lesson plans! We are looking forward to seeing you on December 15th at the Central On Main Ballroom, where there will be something for everyone! Drop by between 3:30-5:00 pm.

Please RSVP thru the link in the attached invitation so we have enough cookies and beverages for all!

All of those that attend will receive a jeans pass!!!

Technology: We have teachers sharing tech-savvy tools for both teachers and students to use in the classroom.

- WabbitStudio, <https://wabbit.codeplex.com/>, has an app available for Android phones and tablets to download TI calculator emulators. This would be a great way for students access the capabilities of a graphing calculator away from the classroom.
- Plickers, <https://www.plickers.com/>, is a tool that lets teachers collect real-time formative assessment data without the need for student devices. This also provides immediate feedback as the teacher scans to student response papers around the room on his/her own device.

Professional Development:

Annenberg Learner, http://www.learner.org/workshops/workshop_list.html, has possible professional development opportunities for various workshops and courses at different instructional levels.