

MC² Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

mc2.nmsu.edu

September 2010

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Lenses on Learning Mathematic Teams: Educators Coming Together for Students

By Janice Bradley

MC² and Lenses on Learning are partnering, for the second year, with educators across New Mexico to create strong mathematics programs for improving students' mathematics achievement. Lenses on Learning is a nationally developed, research based program especially designed for district leaders to answer these questions:

- What does quality math instruction look like?
- How do you use teamwork to invigorate your school's math instruction?
- How can we use data to improve instruction and student learning?

Lenses on Learning will be guiding teams in two phases:

Phase 1 – Building Awareness and Planning Action

Districts include: Las Cruces, Moriarty, Ruidoso (K-12), Cobre (K-12), Dexter/Tatum, Albuquerque, and Hobbs.

Phase 2 – Taking Action, Monitoring Implementation, and Assessing Results

Districts include: Las Cruces, Hatch, Lovington, Cimarron, Springer, and Mora.

As a result of participation in Lenses on Learning professional development, district leadership teams will develop the capacity to lead their districts toward the development of strong, coherent math programs strategically designed to support all students' mathematics achievement.

Upcoming MC² Lenses on Learning Training Sessions:

Session 1 - September 21st (North)

Session 2 - October 19th (North)

Session 3 - October 6th (Alamo) & 7th (LC/Hatch)



A Teacher Leader's Perspective of Summer Math Academies

Being a teacher leader this past summer was a wonderful experience. Being a part of the planning meeting I fully realized all the work that goes into everything that MC² does; how MC² truly considers the students' and teachers' needs. Personally, being a teacher leader was a growing experience as I sat in a room full of mathematicians discussing multiplicative reasoning. I had a small moment of feeling dumb; that moment everyone has before their brains are stretched and learning takes place. In the end, I came out of the planning and the academy with a deeper understanding of what it means to think multiplicatively and how to instill that in my students. MC² has given me opportunities to meet with my educational peers to discuss issues that we face in the middle school math classroom. This network has helped me to know that I am not alone in my journey and has given me opportunity to continually learn innovative teaching strategies.

To any new teacher I would say to take advantage of any and all MC² professional developments as possible; to go in with an attitude of learning, thinking of your classroom currently and how when you leave the PD it will be different. Most importantly, don't overwhelm yourself with making too many changes. Small changes each year will quickly add up and you will find that in a few years you will look back and see that you have gone miles with your practice.

Christina Reynaga

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Ted's Math Problems



Web Resources

1. How many different methods or representations can you use to show that $\frac{2}{3}$ is greater than $\frac{3}{5}$?
2. Lulu is making fruit punch for her Fall Celebration party, and she is trying to get just the right ratio between orange juice and pineapple juice. A ratio of 2 parts pineapple juice to 1 part orange juice is just a little bit too pineappley. So then she tries a ratio of 3 parts pineapple juice to 2 parts orange juice, and the result is much too orangey. What ratio of pineapple juice to orange juice might Lulu try next?

- ✓ Resources in Differentiated Instruction created by the Institutes on Academic Diversity at the University of Virginia - <http://www.diffcentral.com/resources.html>
- ✓ Dr. Tomlinson's Differentiated Instruction website: <http://www.caroltomlinson.com/>

Getting to Know the MC² Staff:

Diane and Mindy Join MC² Regional Field Specialists



Diane Waller is an MC² Field Specialist for Cobre, Deming, and Lynn Middle School at LCPS. She served the Portales, Dora, Elida, and Floyd districts through the Eastern New Mexico University state grant before moving to Las Cruces. Her areas of expertise are special education and cognitive neuroscience. Congratulations to her for completing her Master's in Special Education from Eastern New Mexico University. She is now pursuing an NMSU PhD program.



Melinda Montez, known to most people as *Mindy*. She went to WNMU and NMSU for college and earned a Master's degree in Math Education and Education Administration. She will be serving the northern and southwest regions of New Mexico. She has partnered with MC² for six years, and is happy to be accepted by MC² as a full-time staff member and part of their community. She is excited about our continued work together.

MC² Partner Updates

The **MC²/La Meta Summer Academy** was held at Albuquerque High from June 7 to June 17, 2010. We had over 80 participants who chose from two mathematical strands in the morning (number/operations and algebra) and various pedagogy sessions in the afternoon including New Users to CMP, classroom structures, assessment for learning, using algebra tiles, the TI Navigator, etc. This year we focused more during the morning sessions on explicitly implementing the teaching strategies that were discussed in the afternoon sessions. After our success this year in working more closely with the amazing cadre of APS coaches, we have already begun to plan for next year. We hope to expand to three math strands (which will be determined by looking at what mathematical concepts kids struggle with on the SBA), to expand our afternoon offerings, and to tie the mornings and afternoons together more effectively. We are also thinking about how to better integrate the school-year coaching activities and the summer institutes.

Kristin Umland

"I left more confident in my ability to differentiate instruction. Therefore, major changes will include providing more 'varied' instruction." **A Participant's comment about the 2010 MC² Academy**

Q's & A's

Q: What are some web resources I can use to give my students choice on assignments?

A: Following are some web resources that have great examples on choice boards and menus for classroom use.

Pajaro Valley Unified School District

<http://www.pvusd.net/departments/GATE/choiceboards.php>

http://www.k8accesscenter.org/training_resources/mathdifferentiation.asp

PLC CORNER

Visit these web sites for Best Practices resources.

- Denver Public Schools' Curriculum & Instruction web site is a great resource for best practices in grades 6-8 mathematics

http://curriculum.dpsk12.org/math_science/math/best_practices/index.html

- Professional Learning Communities: What Are They And Why Are They Important? Issues about Change, Vol. 6, No. 1 (1997)

<http://www.sedl.org/change/issues/issues61.html>

SUMMER COACHES ACADEMY

On August 2nd and 3rd MC² held their first state-wide Coaching Academy. Coaches from around the state met in Las Cruces to create a structure for a math coach PLC group. The next steps will be to create four PD days for this group throughout the school year. If you are interested in being part of the group and are a math coach please e-mail Pat at pcarden@nmsu.edu.

Thank you to everyone who provided information for this month's newsletter!

Mark Your Calendar
State Math/Science Conference
October 7-9 in Albuquerque, NM
Early Bird Registration Deadline
September 22, 2010
at nmctm.org

MC² Staff Presenting

Here is your chance to attend some mini MC² sessions you did not get the opportunity to do this summer! The following will be presenting:

Thursday all day pre-session:

Rocio Benedicto: *Mathematics Learning for English Language Learners*

Friday:

Karla Gade: *Constructing Mathematical Knowledge through IMP (Interactive Mathematics Program)*

Douglas Kurtz & Lisa Matthews-Holguin: *Vertical Alignment: Multiplication*

Kristin Umland: *Summer Math Academy in Albuquerque*

Saturday:

Diane Waller: *Differentiated Instruction in the Mathematics Classroom*

Michelle Sterling-Rodriguez: *The Nuts and Bolts of CMP: What every teacher new to CMP needs to begin a successful adventure!*

We want to hear from you!

Email your ideas and suggestions to:
Patricia at pcarden@nmsu.edu or
Sheila at sshills@nmsu.edu

