The goal of The MMP Math Minutes is to improve communication and foster discussion among the high school math teachers, the Principal, and the Learning Team. MMP Math Minutes is distributed monthly.

Textbook Debut Held Aug. 26
On the afternoon of August 26, at South Division High School, math department chairs, released MTLs and 9th grade MTLs were introduced to the new algebra and geometry text books. For some of the teachers who had already taken the UWM course in August, this was a second look at the books. Kevin McLeod, UWM math professor, presented an excellent lesson on fractals to the group. Plans are to have a repeat of the one credit summer courses for Discovering Algebra and Discovering Geometry. Flyers will be sent to schools when plans are finalized.

Math Kick Off
K-9 MTLs attended the annual Kick Off at South Division. Mr. Andrekopoulos welcomed teachers and spoke of the challenges of the newly released MTL position. DeAnn Huinker talked about the MMP Continuum and the chance to implement many of the things the five year grant produced. Teachers then dispersed by attending three sessions titled: The Learning Team Continuum, The MMP Leadership Development and The Same Yet Smaller. The Learning Team Continuum’s goals were to have teachers participate in lesson strategies for moving teachers from stage 0 to 5. The PRIME Leadership Framework listed the big ideas that define the role of the MTL. Those ideas were then compared to the five Big Strategies. Time was spent looking at stages of leadership development: know and model, collaborate and motivate, and advocate and systematize. The content session focused on another way to approach fractions. Participants worked with triangle side measurements and saw connections to the properties of fraction operations.

Math Department Chair Meeting
“A New Vision for 2008-09”
The first math department chairperson meeting of the new school year was held on Wednesday, September 10. This year a new format is being used at the meetings. Dan Lotesto, a math teacher at Riverside High School, has been selected to be the “Chair of the Chairs” and will facilitate the meetings. He will be assisted by Mary Mooney, Laura Maly and Darlene Boyle. Dan has added a new component to the meetings, “Math Content Conversations”, and hopefully this teacher exchange will generate new insights into teaching the concepts covered in these discussions. Teachers will be invited to share ideas for future discussions. Development of “focus groups” for various mathematical topics, i.e., content areas, textbooks, AP calculus, math chatroom, was introduced and will be developed at future meetings. This year all meetings will be held at Central Services.

New High School Teaching Specialists
Mary Mooney and Laura Maly have been hired as our high school teaching specialists for the coming school year. Mary Mooney has been a MPS math teacher for 15 years. She was a TIR for the last two years, and prior to that time was a math teacher at MSE. Laura Maly, former math teacher at Bradley Tech, was a math coach for the last two years and has been with MPS for 13 years. They will provide support for the MMP initiatives and other issues defined by Teaching and Learning.

Interesting Math Fact
Pythagoras. Ever watch the "Wizard of Oz"? When the scarecrow receives his brain, he incorrectly states the Pythagorean Theorum. He must have had straw up there all the time!