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.

**Algebra Lab-Dec 5**

“What’s My Line?” hosted by Mary Mooney

The lab began with a teacher discussion on highlights or concerns about the new algebra book. Student work was shared with papers brought by teachers and the MMP Protocol was used. Lesson 4.7, “Applications of Modeling” was worked through to gain insights in teaching the lesson. Three approaches to Best-Fit Line were practiced: eyeball, point-slope and quartiles. The next lab is Feb 20. Please join us and get involved in algebra activities for the new textbook.

**Geometry Lab-Nov 15**

Prove It

Lab members reviewed the Van Hiele levels of learning, 0-5. Time was spent on implications for teaching using student work and the protocol. Teachers also proved the conjecture of the sum of the interiors angles of a triangle through various strategies, including using Cabri Jr. on the TI-84. The lab closed with displaying strategies for the sum of the interior angles of a polygon.

**Geometry Lab-Dec 12**

Transformations

The goals of the labs were again mentioned for teachers: become familiar with the new book and network with fellow teachers. Student work on a new problem was discussed using the MMP Protocol. Vocabulary from Chapter 7 on transformations was defined and teachers had some fun working the “Tricky Pool” problem using reflections and patty paper. Interestingly, rotations and translations are equivalent to compositions of reflections. The next lab is Feb 27. Feel free to join us for some engaging math dialogue.

**Important Dates**

Winter Break---December 20-January 4

NCSM—Washington, DC March 20-22, 2009

NCTM—Washington, DC March 23-25, 2009

WMC—Green Lake May 7-8, 2009

**MOODLE**

Our discussion groups are up and running on Moodle. We have a discussion group for the math department chairpersons and another one for the new algebra and geometry textbooks adoption. Feel free to post any concerns or items that you may want to share on either one of these sites. If you have some spare time, log on and visit the sites—you might find something useful that you can use in your classroom. Let us know if you have problems logging on.

**Math Department Chair Meeting**

There was no math department chair meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 14 at Central Services. Remember to ENROLL.

**Interesting Math Fact**

Did you know a 10-gallon hat barely holds 6 pints?

**HAVE A HAPPY & RESTFUL HOLIDAY BREAK**

**8-9 Summit**

Teachers were welcomed to the December Summit and Carl Hanssen, an external evaluator with the MMP, provided results so far for the five year grant. Evidence seems to show that schools, which have embraced the MMP principles, have shown gains in student achievement. Leadership focused on understanding the “system” of formative assessment practices. Teachers were left with a challenge to implement an assessment system in their classroom. Therefore, becoming a model for other teachers.

Assessment moved along the Learning Continuum using the CABS Class Summary Report as a tool in developing an assessment system for teachers’ classrooms. Participants worked the “Umbrella Problem” and practiced using the class summary report template. The forum had teachers pick a topic of interest (New Textbook, CABS Class Summary Report, LieCal, Fractals and Fractions, Grade 8 Summit Portfolios, or Connections to September and October Summits).

Content, through UWM, explored the connections between linear recursions and exponential growth/decay working “The Bug Problem.”