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.

MOODLE

Two new chat rooms have been set up for an idea exchange between MPS math teachers. These rooms are set up at: http://tlc.milwaukee.k12.wi.us

The department chair group (Math Dept Chairs 08-09) is listed under District Educational Communities and the the enrollment key is DC0809. The text book group (Key Curriculum Press Adoption 08-09), is listed under Central Services Communities and the enrollment key is KCP0809. The enrollment keys are case sensitive. Teachers are welcome to join the discussions in these rooms. This will be an excellent venue for posting items that you think might be of use to other teachers in their classrooms.

A big THANK YOU to Scott Kempen, MTL from MAAST, for setting these rooms up for us!!

Math Department Chair Meeting

The high school math department chairs met on Wednesday, November 12, at the Technology Support Center. Shannon Gordon from the Technology Support Center explained the eDevelopment process to attending department chairpersons. This new process will allow the designated person in each building to keep track online of the professional development activities that occur in their building. Hopefully, this will eventually replace all the paperwork that we currently do!! Scott Kempen ended the meeting with a Moodle explanation.

The next meeting will be December 10 at Central Services. Remember to ENROLL.

Important Dates

NCSM—Washington, DC April 20-22, 2009
NCTM—Washington, DC April 23-25, 2009
WMC—Green Lake May 7-8, 2009

“On the Road Again” with the Algebra Lab

The second algebra lab was held on November 5 at the Marshall Complex. Algebraic habits of mind were discussed with a focus on the role of classroom questioning. Kevin McLeod and his algebra team guided teachers through an algebra lesson from the new textbook and teachers went home with a lesson to use in their classrooms. They will bring student work to the next lab session on December 5 and work through the MMP Protocol. Please feel free to attend and remember to ENROLL.

Geometry Lab

The lab began with teachers taking a survey, “Perspectives on Mathematics Teaching and Learning Assessment Instrument”, which focused on the teaching methods and beliefs of a discovery lesson in the new geometry book. Teachers also took the “Van Hiele Geometry Test” and read his “Begin With Play”. The Discovering Geometry uses the Van Hiele model. The next lab is November 15. Sign up on ENROLL and join us.

Interesting Math Fact

Among all shapes with the same perimeter, a circle has the largest area.

8-9 Summit

Teachers started the morning with taking the pre-Post Test, the MKT from UWM. This will provide data to the state concerning the grant for MTLs this year. It is important to show growth in math content for teachers. Leadership with Janis Freckman and Connie Laughlin provided info on why research backs formative assessment. Time was spent reading and discussing “Inside the Black Box: Raising Standards Through Classroom Assessment” by Paul Black and Dylan William. Parts of a video by R. Stiggins were also shown and discussed, providing a crucial distinction between assessment of and for learning. Nine principles of formative assessment were shared and aligned to the Learning Team Continuum. Teachers witnessed a demonstration on analyzing student work and then practiced the five step protocol at their tables. The forum consisted of groups led by the Math Teaching Specialists, addressing concerns or issues of the MTLs. Kevin McLeod revisited the shoelace problem from last month and worked through the MMP Protocol for further practice.