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.

Search for Math Curriculum Specialist
The search for a new Math Curriculum Specialist for MPS continues. In the interim we have a team of great leaders to guide us. Henry Kranendonk, former Math Curriculum Specialist, is back on a part-time basis. Connie Laughlin, retired math teacher from Homestead High School in Mequon and MPS’ North Division, and Rose Carr, a retired MPS principal, are helping Henry during this transition period. Other key leadership roles are being filled by DeAnn Huinker and Kevin McLeod from UWM and Jack Moyer from Marquette University.

New Position
Sharonda Harris, an MTS, is currently underfilling the position of Accountability Administrator for the newly released MTL positions in the schools. Sharonda, assisted by Henry Kranendonk, is visiting those schools to assist the MTLs in defining their role in the schools.

Math Department Chair Meeting
The high school math department chairs met on Wednesday, October 8, at Central Services. Updates were given on the 8-9 Summits, Algebra & Geometry Labs, calculators, and math folders and the new procedures for recording professional development. An important item discussed was the distribution of extra algebra and geometry text books. We are asking schools to help by giving extra books to schools that don’t have enough. Scott Kempen, the DC from MAAST, is setting up two discussion groups on Moodle. One will be for DC concerns and the other for textbook dialogue. Dan Lotesto handed out an article titled “True Academic Success”. Hopefully, teachers have read the material and will be ready to discuss at a future meeting. The next meeting will be November 12 at the Tech Center and the eDevelopment process will be explained.

Wonderful World of Algebra
The first algebra lab of the 2008-2009 school year was held on Friday, October 10, at the Marshall Complex. Eighteen teachers were in attendance. Teachers began the lab with group discussions on equation solving strategies and were then introduced to a lesson on “undoing equations” that paralleled a lesson in the new algebra text book. Participants came up with many interesting observations and questions. Presenting the lesson were Kevin McLeod and Bill Mandella, UWM math professors, Marta Magiera, Marquette University math professor, and high school teaching specialists, Mary Mooney and Laura Maly. There will be five more algebra labs this school year and if you have not yet joined us, give some thought to coming on board. We still have room for a few more participants. Remember the first geometry lab is on October 24, Room 350, at the Marshall Complex.

Interesting Math Fact
In a group of 23 people, at least two have the same birthday with the probability greater than ½.

October 8-9 Summit
The meeting began with repeating the MMP’s 3 goals: formative assessment, leadership and content. The content focus this year is on algebraic reasoning. Teachers spent time working “Bob’s Blocks” or “Fractals and Fractions” and identifying the Learning Targets, State Standards and Depth of Knowledge. Jack Moyer presented the “Toothpick Hexagons” and asked for teacher input. 8-9 teachers were split into grade levels with the 9th grade group working on the CR for Benchmark 1. Jack Moyer spent some time with those schools that agreed to work with the LieCal program. Janis Freckman provided a session on leadership using the Prime book as a framework. Teachers discussed Stage 1 of leadership. What do I know and do? Mary Mooney led a discussion on expectations of MTLs outside their classroom, hoping to provide concrete ideas. Kevin McLeod provided content on linearity and recursion with working the “Shoelace” problem which will continue at the next meeting at the Marshall Complex on October 21/22.