



Math In A Nutshell

Quick Tips for the Hurried Teacher

Content Elementary Math Newsletter from the Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program

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What's new at www.rpdp.net...

As teachers, our days are filled with the many demands of our profession. Many times, we need a quick, easily accessible resource to answer questions, find information or simply gather ideas for effective instruction. This issue of Math In A Nutshell is devoted to familiarizing elementary teachers with the mathematical resources available to them and their students via rpdp.net.

Individualized Professional Development...

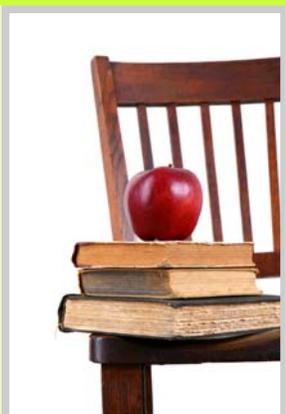
To remain enthusiastic and committed to their work, teachers need environments that promote meaningful learning, for both themselves and their students.

- Sonia Nieto, 2009

To stay current in their practice, all teachers need to engage in professional learning throughout their careers. However, in order for this professional development to be meaningful and engaging, teachers need to be able to select the topics they want to learn more about as well as have the opportunity to work collaboratively with colleagues.

In order to meet the needs of all teachers, we are proud to announce the addition of *Instructional Videos*. Each of the RPDP content teams have produced videos that are available for viewing at any time. These short video segments are designed to provide content area awareness, teaching pedagogy and instructional activities that are easily replicated in the classroom. The RPDP Elementary Math Team currently has five videos online. You may use these alone or as a starting point for professional development sessions at your school site during the school day. The topics of the five elementary videos are:

- **Basic Facts:** Provides information about multiplication facts and how to help your students develop fluency in these facts.
- **Basic Facts for the Primary Grades:** This short video reviews the stages students move through in order to learn the basic facts.
- **Constructed Response Preparation:** Designed to provide teachers with useful information in order to assist in developing student success on the CRT.
- **Multiplication Strategies:** A variety of strategies designed to be used in the classroom to help explain how to solve multiplication problems are explained.
- **Problem Solving:** This video compares and contrasts problem solving and word problems and presents ideas of how to focus more on problem solving in the math classroom.





Thoughts on online learning:

Technology has made it easy for educators to embrace continual professional development.

Some blogs leave me challenged. Some leave me angry. Some leave me jazzed. All leave me energized and ready to learn more.

- Bill Ferriter, 2009

Elementary Mathematics Resources: **RED TAB** Ready for You!

The **RED TAB** labeled "Math" on the RPDP home page is an excellent resource for K-12 teachers. Behind this drop down menu, a number of professional development resources are provided in order to assist you in your mathematics instruction. A few of these extraordinary resources are listed below;

- **Basic Facts:** Within this section you will find strategies and games that will help your students master their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. These tools will promote the understanding that is necessary for students to understand and apply their basic facts.
- **Preparing for the CRT:** This section is linked to the Nevada Department of Education website and provides information that will assist teachers in helping their students be fully prepared for taking the CRT. In this section you will find the achievement indicators, item specifications, and CRT practice tests.
- **Writing About Math:** It is essential for students to be able to explain their strategies and thought process when working with numbers. In this section you can find writing activities and journaling prompts designed to facilitate content area writing.
- **Math and Literacy:** Here you are provided with Children's Literature book lists and journal topics that can be used in the math curriculum.
- **Visual Math Dictionary:** This resource is available in both English and Spanish and for all grade levels. Each word provides a definition and example for students to assist in their understanding of mathematical terms.

Upcoming RPDP Courses:

Children's Literature and Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers

RPDP 549A, 1 graduate credit
Mondays, April 13, 20, 27, & May 4, 2009

Family Math Night for Elementary Teachers

RPDP 549, 1 graduate credit
Tuesdays, April 14, 21, 28, & May 5, 2009

Problem Solving K-6

RPDP 541
Wednesdays, April 13, 22, 29, & May 6, 2009

Spatial Reasoning and Geometry

RPDP 544A, 1 graduate credit
Thursday—Saturday, April 23, 24, and 25, 2009

www.rpdp.net

Spotlight of the Month:

UNLV Registration

The home page of the rpdp website walks you through the UNLV registration process, links you to course catalogs with call numbers, and provides contact information if you are having problems registering for classes.

