

# Got Math?

Southern Nevada  
Regional Professional  
Development Program

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A Newsletter from the Secondary Mathematics Team



## HOLES IN THE TEXTBOOKS

A textbook should be used as a guide and a resource to help teachers teach the curriculum. Some textbooks do a better job than others in covering the syllabus objectives. If an objective is listed in the syllabus, then teachers are required to teach that objective even though it might not be found or effectively developed in the textbook. To address these types of curricular issues in mathematics, it is necessary for teachers to supplement textbooks to “fill the holes”. This article focuses on identifying some of the holes for first semester objectives.

For example, in Math 8 and Pre-Algebra, the adopted textbook addresses absolute value; however, it does not follow-up by extending the concept to solving absolute value equations and inequalities. Another area of concern is conversion of units of measure for mass and capacity within the same measurement system. These are important because they are included in our Nevada state standards and CCSD syllabus objectives, they appear on the CRT's, and also may be assessed on the CCSD Pre-Algebra semester exam.

The list of holes in various Algebra textbooks is a little longer: scalar multiplication of matrices, box-and-whisker plots, histograms, scatter plots, probability, finding the  $n^{\text{th}}$  term in a sequence, functions, solving literal equations, writing linear equations, solving and graphing linear equations, compound inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities, and families of linear functions.

Areas that have been identified as problematic in the Geometry curriculum include the following: truth-value of conditional statements, analyzing conditional and bi-conditional statements, comparing deductive and inductive arguments, defending conclusions using deductive and inductive reasoning, geometric constructions, exploring conditions that guarantee parallel and perpendicular lines, justifying conjectures using coordinate geometry techniques, and justifying conjectures and problem solving using inductive reasoning.

Supplemental material can be found on the RPD website at [www.rpd.net](http://www.rpd.net). Other useful resources may be found in supplemental texts, on-line textbooks, workbooks, internet sites, and through collaboration with colleagues.

### A PAY RAISE?

SNRPDP offers several Advanced Studies Programs (ASP), including Middle School Mathematics and High School Mathematics. ASP programs are applicable to teachers who have obtained a Master's Degree. These 18-credit programs can be applied toward the first two programs for completion of the three-program sequence of the Clark County Center of Teaching Excellence (CTE) program. For more information regarding the pay raise and CTE programs, please visit [www.clarkcountyste.info](http://www.clarkcountyste.info).

To enroll in RPD courses, and for more information on the ASP program, go to [www.rpd.net](http://www.rpd.net). Our secondary math catalog provides information regarding the required courses, cost, and class schedules.

### ON THE SNRPDP WEBSITE

Take a look at the website for valuable resources and teaching aids. New this school year are unit resources for 6<sup>th</sup> grade math, 7<sup>th</sup> grade math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. These resources include sample student notes and unit assessments. These materials are useful for those who are teaching any of these courses for the first time, or those who would like to have additional materials to supplement what they have used in the past. The unit notes and tests are aligned to the CCSD Syllabi and Benchmarks and will help to prepare students for the district-wide common semester exams. If you have any questions, comments, or corrections on these resources, please email Cassie Dulmage at [cdulmage@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:cdulmage@interact.ccsd.net).



*Organizing  
Student Learning  
to Increase  
Achievement*

Sometimes things can seem more complicated than they really are. If large or messy numbers are causing confusion, try making them simpler. The easier numbers may help come up with a plan for solving the problem.

### MASTER'S DEGREES

The SNRPDP Math Department also offers Middle School and High School Mathematics Certificate Programs. These 16-hour programs can be applied toward a Master's Degree at UNLV. For more information on Master's Programs, call (702) 895-1986 or go to

[http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu/degree\\_programs/ci.htm](http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu/degree_programs/ci.htm)

*We're on the  
web  
[www.rpd.net](http://www.rpd.net)*

## MEET THE SECONDARY MATHEMATICS TRAINERS

Sara Arizmendez is starting her second year at RPDP and is beginning her sixteenth year in the district. She has taught at Brown Middle School, Cheyenne High School, Centennial High School, and Arbor View High School. A long time resident of Las Vegas and a product of the CCSD, Sara received her undergraduate degree from UNLV and earned a Master's in School Administration from the University of Phoenix. Married for fifteen years with two wonderful children, her hobbies include spending time with her friends and family, trying new foods, and playing tennis. Sara will be working primarily with the Southeast Region secondary schools and helping with the Superintendent secondary schools as well.

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Cheryl Barnson will be returning part-time to the RPDP this fall as a secondary mathematics regional trainer. Her concentration will be at the middle school level. Her past experience in CCSD includes positions at Silvestri MS, Silverado HS, Chaparral HS and Brinley JHS. Before moving to Nevada, Cheryl taught three years in a Michigan high school. Her Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics is from Central Michigan University, and she earned a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from UNLV.

**Cheryl Barnson—Middle School**  
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Cassie Dulmage is back with RPDP on the Secondary Math Team. She is in her 10<sup>th</sup> year with CCSD and has taught at Laughlin MS/HS, Foothill HS, Advanced Technologies Academy, and Bay High School in Bay Village, Ohio. She also teaches the RPDP Calculus Overview for High School Teachers course in the High School Math Certificate Program, AP Calculus AB Mini-Institutes, and the Proficiency Tutor Training. Cassie earned her B.S. in Mathematics from Ashland University and her M.Ed. in Technology from Northern Arizona University. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her daughter, swimming, reading, and walking her three dogs.

**Cassie Dulmage—High School**  
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Sally Dulmage is a secondary mathematics trainer who works with the math teachers at Charles West MS/HS, Desert Pines HS, and Brown MS. Sally taught high school mathematics for 18 years and spent 11 years as a guidance counselor at Amherst HS, Ohio. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Ashland College and her Master's Degree from Bowling Green State University. After retiring from Ohio, she moved to Arizona and continued her career teaching mathematics at Laughlin MS/HS, River Valley HS, and Kingman HS. She also taught at Mohave Community College. She enjoys reading, knitting, playing euchre and being a member of the AVID team at Basic High School.

**Sally Dulmage—Special Projects /MIP**  
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Ricardo Hunter is the Regional Trainer in the Southwest Region for Secondary Math. Prior to moving to Las Vegas, Ricardo began his teaching career at Durfee JHS in Detroit, Michigan. He is beginning his 32<sup>nd</sup> year in the Clark County School District. Ricardo has taught math at Cashman JHS and Cheyenne HS and has administrative experience at Charles I. West MS and Silverado HS.

**Ricardo Hunter—Southwest Region**  
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Debbie Lawrence is new to RPDP. She will be starting her eighteenth year with Clark County School District and has taught at Saville MS, Becker MS, J.D. Smith MS, and Sierra Vista HS in Las Vegas and Moon Valley HS in Glendale, AZ. Although she has learned the most in her classroom, she also has a Master's Degree in Computers in Education from Lesley College and a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from the University of Northern Iowa. Debbie just celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this summer and has three boys. She enjoys reading, cooking, sewing, and movies, but her biggest joy is Algebra!

**Debbie Lawrence—Northeast Region**  
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Carol Long returns to RPDP for her tenth year! She is a Regional Trainer for Secondary Mathematics and works primarily with the Middle School Math Certificate Program and middle schools. This is the start of her thirty-first year in Clark County School District with twenty-one years at Brinley Middle School. She has a Master's Degree from NOVA Southeastern University and a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and Elementary Education from Saint Thomas Aquinas College in New York. Carol enjoys gardening, traveling, reading, sewing, crafts, and movies. Her biggest joy in life are her two children.

**Carol Long—Middle School**  
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Cindy L. Ortiz joins RPDP this year as a Secondary Mathematics Regional Trainer. She is starting her eleventh year with CCSD which includes teaching positions at Durango HS, Centennial HS and Arbor View HS. She has also been a part-time trainer for RPDP, teaching Geometry workshops for several years. After receiving her BA from the University of Central Florida, Cindy started her teaching career in her home state of Florida. Prior to her cross country move, she taught at Winter Haven HS, Lake Brantley HS, Tuscawilla MS and Greenwood Lakes MS. She is currently working on her Master's Degree at UNLV in Curriculum & Instruction and was one of the first group to complete RPDP's Certificated Program. Cindy is the busy mother of three and keeps even busier helping her husband run their family-owned air conditioning companies in Las Vegas, NV and Phoenix, AZ.

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Hal Overholtzer is returning for his third year working for RPDP. As a part-time regional trainer, he works exclusively with the math teachers at the Eldorado Prep Academy. Hal has worked in education for 39 years, including teaching in Nevada and California at the elementary, high school, and collegiate level. He was also an administrator at the middle school level. He earned his bachelor's degree from Cal State Hayward; he has a Master's Degree from Northern Arizona University.

**Hal Overholtzer - Special Projects/MIP**  
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Karl Spendlove has teaching experience in mathematics, science and computer technology at Roy Martin JHS, Western HS, Cheyenne HS, Advanced Technologies Academy, The Meadows School, and Arbor View HS. Administrative assignments have included Mojave HS, Bonanza HS, and Boulder City HS.

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