California Mathematics Project at Sacramento State

Saturday Seminars


We continue our series of supporting teachers in learning that the Common Core Standards ask us to balance teaching for conceptual understanding with performing procedures correctly to get solutions. We use strategies that work in the classroom. We provide support for how to structure content so students can make sense of the mathematics for themselves, and we model strategies so they will persevere while reasoning.

π Be a math learner: Come be a learner of mathematics doing the Standards for Mathematical Practice for yourself as you work on problems in small groups.

π Analyze as a professional: Identify content structures, problems and strategies that we model as we teach that can be used with your students.

π Approach lessons conceptually: See how to start with conceptual understanding and build to procedural fluency, so students can understand deeply.

π Examine Common Core Tasks for students: You will be given student tasks and be invited to bring back student work (without names.) Use a rubric developed from SMARTER BALANCED sample items to look at the student work. Develop PROBING questions and GUIDING questions or tasks for each piece of student work.

A typical Saturday Seminar includes...

1) A problem solving activity - problems are chosen so that they are accessible to all no matter when they last had a math class.
2) Retracing a lesson from a teacher’s perspective, considering ways in which learners were involved, methods of questioning, and methods of pushing the understanding of learners to a deeper level.
3) Break-out sessions will be offered particular to different grade levels of the teachers in attendance.
4) Analysis of Student Work on Common Core tasks

Sample Student Problem...
Two snails, Swifty and Speedy, are having a race. After 8 minutes Speedy had traveled 7 inches, while after 12 minutes Swifty had traveled the respectable distance of 10 inches. Which snail is the speed king? Please record how you found your answer.

A teacher’s biggest AHA about Common Core gained at a Saturday Seminar....
“[I gained ideas to meet] the challenge of helping students to feel confident that they have the tools to explain his or her thinking. As the common core is implemented students will have far greater understanding of the why.”

Individual sessions are $45.00 or purchase 3+ at one time for $40.00 per session

Cost Includes: Light breakfast and coffee, lunch, workshop supplies, and professional development hours
Earn 2.0 Continuing Education units for attending 4/5 Saturday Seminars for an additional $120!

Register Online at
www.csus.edu/mase/csusmp/saturdayseminars.htm