



Notes 2 Nerds

December 12, 2022

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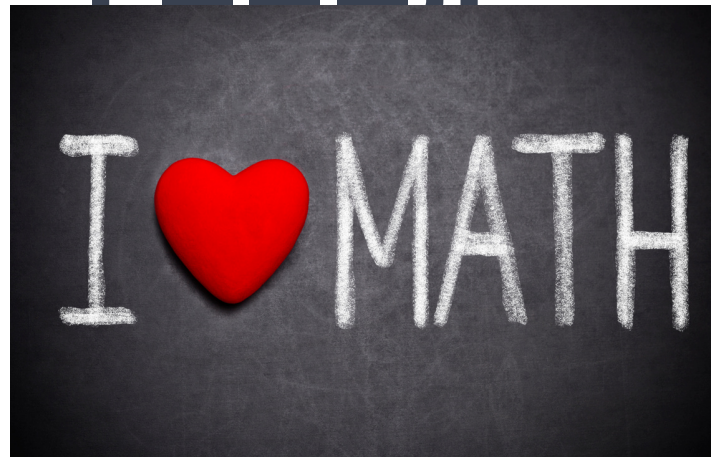
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Teacher Development and Consulting



Director's Notes

"The Gift"

Sometimes we don't realize that we are struggling until we have moments of clarity. In late November, I was getting work done, but, goodness gracious, I was working way harder than usual to stay afloat or *a foot or two of being able to stay afloat*. This note isn't to be a pity party for me, but lots of folks may experience this sense of flailing. On the surface, we are getting by, taking care of business—but wow! The energy expenditure to get to that level is pretty high. *And unsustainable*.

A moment of clarity hit me a couple of weeks ago. On the drive home, the blessing of a cell phone dead zone enveloped my car. I silently cruised down the country road for about five or ten minutes. The loading wheel over my Spotify spun as gently as a child's whirligig in a spring breeze. In the quiet moment recounting the exhausting day, I realized I had made no progress on my projects for the last few days. I had done lots of "work," but I was shoving piles from one side of my desk to the other. The work that makes a difference was being left undone. Feeling guilty for wasting days, I recognized the need to regain my edge. Riding with only my thoughts as a companion, I resolved to let the pile of small things on my desk rest in one place, and I would focus and act on the essential things.

A week or so later, the focus was still in place, but unsure things were where they needed to be. Then, I received an email complimenting a project on which the Collaborative works. The email was genuine and unexpected. I printed this *gift* and taped it to the back of the cubby door above my desk. I could live off this inspiration for a few weeks and maybe more! Tangible evidence I am making a difference with our work.

This little email reminded me of *sunshine notes*. On a quarter sheet of paper, I used to ask my students to write a message they would want to hear if they were experiencing a rough day. They wrote the notes at the start of the semester *when they were in a good place*. I put the notes in a file folder and returned them when my students hit a rough patch. I thought they might make a difference in difficult moments. It wasn't until years later when a former student (now an adult) told me, "Coach Anderson, I've lived off the (sunshine) note for years. It sits on my mirror, and I see it almost every day - especially the tough ones."

A gift. I don't imagine any math lesson or worksheet I gave may have impacted my students more.

Hoping you share a note or kind word with someone. It may be the gift a person needs. *Also*, hoping you receive one...especially if things are shaky.

If you are struggling, ask for help. People care more than you realize.

Happy Maths, *Pete*



'Best of Notes to Future Self' 2022



At the end of every workshop, the Mathematics Collaborative asks participants to send a reminder note to your future self. Our elves work in the background, two weeks after the workshop, to send your reminder to you.

We value and appreciate every educator's experience here at the Collaborative.

Here is our (anonymous) 'Best of Notes to Future Self' Collection for 2022.

We hope sharing these notes will bring a sense of affirmation to you and all that you do each and every day.

"Don't become complacent. Just because perfection cannot be achieved does not mean it is not worth striving for. Do what you were taught in college. Groups, tasks, question."

"Tell your students they are smart...repetitively!"

"You can do this and are making a positive impact on this generation!!"

"Math IS beautiful. Math IS artistic and fun. Art can and should be brought into the Math classroom."

"Math is fun and if it is difficult to understand, add in art and get messy! It is also a great idea to collaborate with others during the planning and doing stage because new/efficient ideas can develop. You got this!"

"Continue to change your students lives by providing the knowledge they need to be successful in life."

"Remember to always make the students think deeper and to gain confidence in what they do."

"Don't forget kids deserve to learn in hands on ways. Technology is great, but math shouldn't always be based in technology."

"Your kids can do this stuff and the material. The milestone can wait so they can develop better thinking skills."

"Breathe and know everything will be ok even if it doesn't work the first time!!"

"You do not have to stay on track with your other teachers, and you can do your own thing."

"You don't have to be in such a rush to move away from number lines and number sense. Students are not "too old". Allow students to use the methods that help them to understand."

"Meet students where they are."

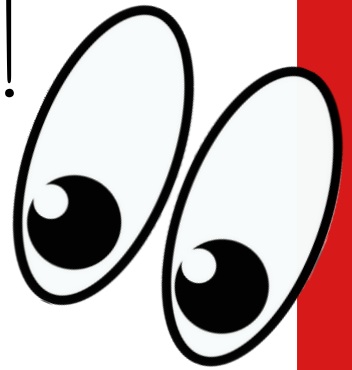
"You're making a difference! Socially, emotionally, and academically♥"

"Don't forget to encourage kids to take risks and support each other in those endeavors."



Professional Learning and Cool Teacher Stuff

Check These Out!



Grades K-5:



[Click here for "13 Rules That Expire"](#)

"When you multiply by ten, just add a zero."

This table shows some commonly used language that "expires" and more appropriate alternatives. How many of these "rules" have you been saying in the classroom?

So many of us are guilty of this at some point in our teaching career, but there is still time to stop old habits!

Middle School:

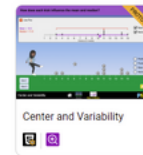


[Click Here: PHET.COLORADO.EDU](#)

- 44 math simulations that provide rich, conceptual learning experiences for students (and teachers!)
- Amazing graphics
- Choose from simulations in all of the mathematics domains
- Detailed instructions and implementation suggestions provided

44 Results

Math X HTML5 X HTML5 Prototype X



High School:



A holiday calendar for the math nerd in all of us.

Challenging but not hard.

Find yourself thinking about it after you solved it.

And sharing it - like a gift!

[Click here for Mathigon Puzzle Calendars](#)

Puzzles will be revealed at 9am GMT every day in December.
Solution are available on the following day.



Professional Development Opportunities 2023

2023 is going to be a year of opportunity!

Start off right by expanding your toolkit with one of our interactive and insightful professional development opportunities.

All grade bands are represented. See you soon!

Free admission for:

CSU Students, Muscogee County, Harris County, Russell County, St. Anne. Pacelli, and members of Delta Kappa Gamma

*Grades
K-2*

January 24,
2023

Guided
Math:
Framework
for Your
Math Block

[Click Here
to Register](#)



*Grades
3-5*

January 26,
2023

Try-Angles,
Rectangles,
and
Squares, OH
MY!

[Click Here
to Register](#)



*Middle
School*

January 25,
2023

Embracing
Small
Change to
Make a BIG
Difference

[Click Here
to Register](#)



*High
School*

January 19,
2023

Algebra
H.E.W.T
(How to
Engage with
Tasks)

[Click Here
to Register](#)





Annual Math Master's Competition Saturday, March 11, 2023

What is the Math Master's Competition?

The Annual Math Master's Competition is a middle-grades math competition. It is a collaborative effort among the CRMC, the Department of Teacher Education, and the Department of Mathematics to support the growth and challenge the minds of students. Teams work together to solve task-based math problems.

Cost to participate
in Math Masters?

The cost is \$60 per team. Invoices will be sent on the day of the event via registrant's email.

What do I win at
Math Masters?

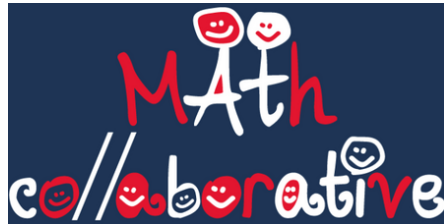
The top three teams collecting the most number of correct answers take trophies back to their schools!

I'm In.
How do I register?:
[Click Here](#) or
scan the QR below:



**MATH
MASTER**





Join Us

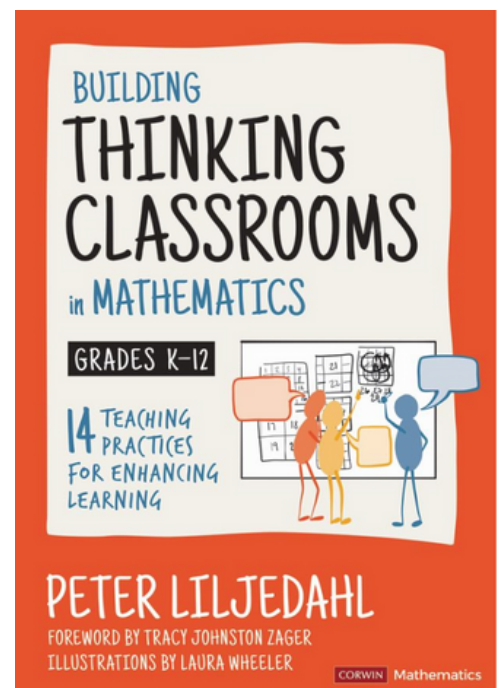


BUILDING THINKING CLASSROOMS COHORT

- ➡ Are the things you are doing in class not connecting with students?
- ➡ Would you like to engage your students more deeply?
- ➡ Are you ready for a change that works?
(I know you have heard this before.)

So, kick the tires and see if the promise fits.
It costs nothing but your willingness to participate.
We meet about once a month, after school, at Frank Brown Hall. We develop and share lessons for teaching your subject. We are looking to grow our Building Thinking Classroom Cohort with High School and Middle School teachers.

[Resource Link](#)



If you are interested,
contact Peter Anderson:
anderson_peter2@columbusstate.edu



'Make It Count!' WANTS YOUR SCHOOL

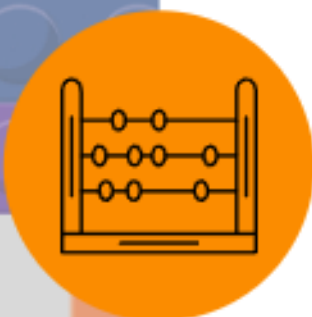
What is it?

The 'Make It Count' Project (MIC) aims to improve math fluency in second graders by building a foundation for sustained growth in mathematics. The partnership between Partners in Education and the Mathematics Collaborative (CRMC) @ Columbus State University pairs schools with volunteers who will visit second-grade classrooms to provide engaging and fun activities designed to build math fluency.

Interested?

Here is What You Need:

- Volunteers (CRMC and PIE will help recruit)
- Supervised space
- 'Make It Count' kit
- Identify students to participate
- School Point-of-Contact



Partners in
EDUCATION



Contact Us Today!

Email: anderson_peter2@columbusstate.edu



Click here to read more about our website:

[Columbus Regional
Mathematics Collaborative
Columbus State University](#)

Click the icons below to follow us on social media!



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