



COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

NOTES *to* NERDS

The official newsletter of the Math Collaborative



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"WHY, WHY, WHY?"

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Our Mission:

The CRMC's mission is to improve math education for all students in our area by developing teacher leaders through deepening their content knowledge, developing best practices, and using available resources to improve student outcomes and experiences.



To do this, we must:

Provide quality teacher growth experiences through continuous collaboration - in and out of the classrooms - with a focus on teachers' needs in support of student growth.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES



by Peter Anderson
CRMC Director



Why, Why, Why?

A dear friend recently retired and I think the best thing he gave me is to ask 'why' at least five times when working with students. Victor Salazar modeled questioning many times. When I would bring him a brilliant idea, he would ask, "Why do you think that will work"? Before I knew it, somewhere around the three-and-a-half 'why's,' I would have an even more interesting revelation. Not to say that I am smart, but there is something to be said for asking why.

The most intriguing discussions seem to fall out of a sentence that begins something like this...
"Pete, I probably should know this but, why _____?"

I was reminded of this when I stood in a packed room at the Georgia Math Conference and watched proudly as my colleague, Hope Phillips, wowed an audience with a tool as simple as a number line and the question 'WHY'.

As math teachers, we are often preoccupied with 'how'. But once we get to the end of the 'how', there is not much left to do. There it sits - the answer, or product, which is satisfying at the moment. But the 'why' is the thing that sustains us.

At her recent investiture as president of Columbus State University, Dr Rayfield reflected on CSU's mission. She thoughtfully weaved four small lessons to reveal the University's 'why'.

As I listened, I recognized the heart of the 'why' for the Math Collaborative. The attributes that make us different than others who support teachers with mathematics are recognizable in these words:

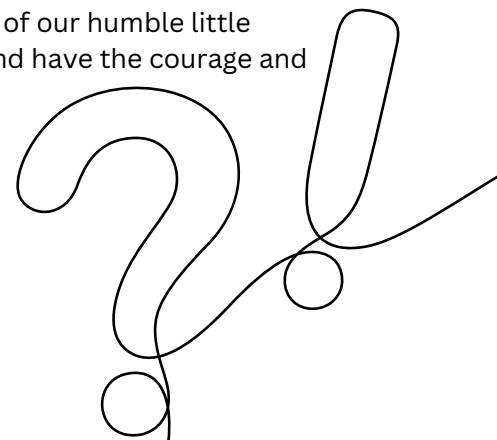
We imagine a world where an appreciation for and understanding of mathematics is not just a subject in school but a magnificent tool that empowers individuals to unlock their full potential.

The Mathematics Collaborative is on a fantastic odyssey to empower educators and students to embrace mathematics as a force for growth, problem-solving, and self-discovery.

More importantly, these words come to life in the hearts, words, and work of our humble little team and the teachers with whom we work. I hope you keep asking why! And have the courage and opportunity to answer your important why. Keep doing amazing things!

Happy Maths,

Pete



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

GRADES 6 - 12



**REGISTER
NOW**

UPCOMING EVENTS



We happily serve anyone with mathematics questions - and more importantly - the best way to teach mathematics.

November

CONTACT US



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NEVER-STOP TOPICS: RATIO & PROPORTIONAL REASONING

For 6th and 7th Grade Math Teachers

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)

08

HOW DO WE TEACH USING MATH MODELING TASKS? BUILDING A THINKING CLASSROOM

9th - 12th Grade Math Teachers

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)

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NEVER-STOP TOPICS: MODELING LINER RELATIONSHIPS & FUNCTIONS

8th Grade Math Teachers

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

GRADES K-5



UPCOMING EVENTS



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PLACING VALUE ON THINKING: PROBLEM-SOLVING WITH PLACE VALUE

3rd - 5th Grade Math Teachers

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)

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DIFFERENTIATION: LEARNING PROGRESSION AND QUESTIONING

K - 2 Math Teachers

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)

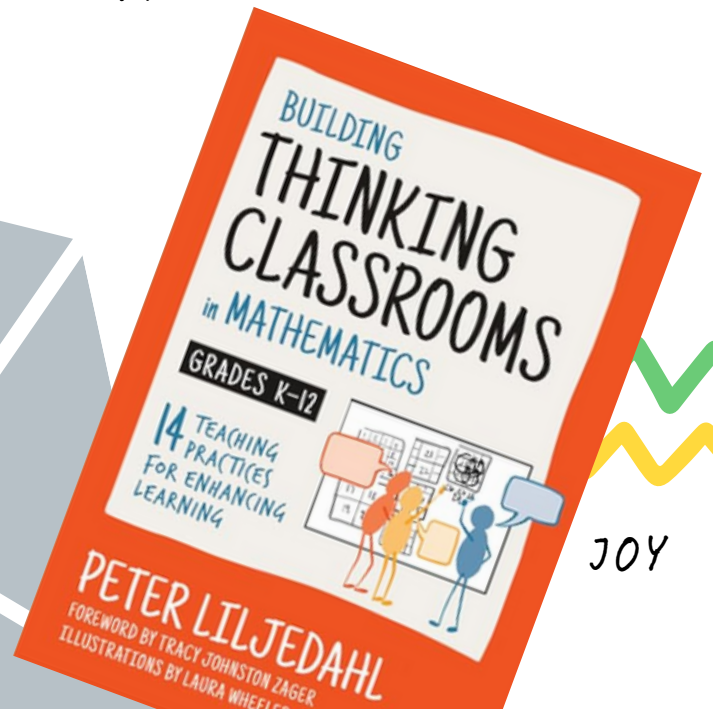
Building Thinking Classrooms

FULFILLMENT

YOU'RE INVITED!

A new cohort
is about to
begin!

ENGAGEMENT



JOY

MEANING



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CONTACT
THIS GUY!



TEACHER RESOURCES

Contributed by Pete Anderson
Director

A NAKED MATH RESOURCE FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS



I usually would not share this with teachers because of my firm belief in the importance of context, but I believe that the way these materials are laid out helps the student build understanding and procedural skills.



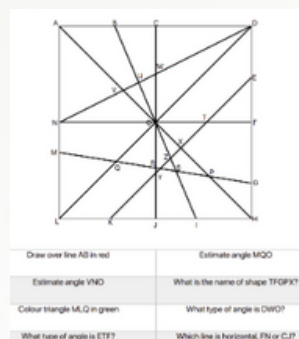
Warning – these are not intended for curriculum but are good resources for building an understanding of naked mathematics.



Here are some of my favorites from the site:

Increasingly Difficult
Factorisation: Quadratics
(These would be good for thin slicing!)

Phase 1 – Angles Booklet
This may be too much naked geometry on Angles (and there is a second booklet!)



This can be a good resource for building skill and understanding but remember:
what Peter Parker's Uncle once said,
"With great power comes great responsibility" ~Uncle Ben

Use it well and for goodness's sake,
Cover up your maths!

Pictures from our trip! Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics



ROAD TRIP!

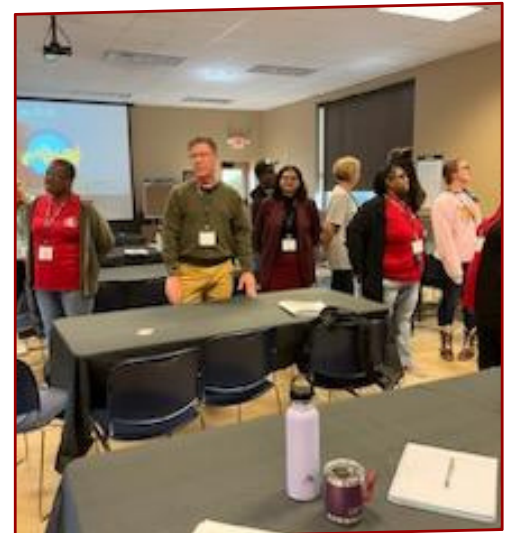
**PETER
ANDERSON:**
**PLAYING WITH
YOUR MATH**



KAREN HENSEN:
**WORD
PROBLEMS
ON FIRE**



HOPE PHILLIPS:
**SOLVING
ALGEBRAIC
EQUATIONS VIA
DOUBLE NUMBER
LINES**





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Keep the
Math Magic Going!
Pledge your Support!



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here!*

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