

# ELEMENTARY MATH NEWSLETTER

Hello teachers,

I have loved getting to work with the dedicated teachers in our district. I hope to provide support to help you continue to be the professionals you are.

One of the most common requests I've received is communication through a newsletter. My goal is to provide you with highlights of amazing teachers in our district, upcoming professional learning opportunities, strategies for implementing effective math teaching practice, and other important updates. If you have any requests, please reach out to me.

Valerie Boyles, K-6 Math Specialist

## Professional Learning Opportunities

A variety of professional learning opportunities are available through the end of the 2018-2019 school year:

### K-12 Mathematical Teaching Practices PDPRo

This is an online Canvas course that is focused on the Mathematical Teaching Practices. The course includes strategies for implementing the practices. The course is 3 weeks long and begins the first Monday of every month. Participants earn 0.5 USBE credits upon completion of the course. *Register through [Midas](#) # 50467*

### K-1 Strategies for Effective Math Practice

This full-day training will be for K-1 teachers to learn about the teaching practices that will be used in the new curriculum to be implemented next year, Investigations. This training will focus on strategies for increasing discussion and asking deeper questions. *Register through [Midas](#) #50554*

- Kindergarten March 7 OR June 10
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade April 17 OR June 24

### K-1 Investigations training

This half-day training is recommended to be taken after Strategies for Effective Math Practice. It will provide K-1 teachers with an overview of their new curriculum. An overview of the program, resources, and scope and sequence will be provided. *Register through [Midas](#) #50555*

- Kindergarten April 29 OR June 11
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade April 30 OR June 25

## DECEMBER TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Hollie Fisher  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Lakeside Elementary



"We have a classroom that celebrates mistakes because we can learn from them. I give out awards for high scores, growth scores, and personal best scores. When students get a paper with PERSONAL BEST across the top, they couldn't be happier. I love teaching these cute kids math!"

## JANUARY TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Jennifer Ziegler  
Kindergarten  
Antelope Elementary



Jennifer's enthusiasm for teaching is contagious. Her kindergarteners are willing to take risks and share their thinking with one another. In this classroom, math means exploration, talking, and having fun! Every student's thinking is valued and adds to deep discussions in her class.

# Increasing Rigor through Mathematical Discussions

NCTM has outlined eight mathematical teaching practices in the book *Principles to Actions: Ensuring Mathematical Success for All*. One of these practices is facilitating meaningful mathematical discourse.

*Students who learn to articulate and justify their own mathematical ideas, reason through their own and others' mathematical explanations, and provide a rationale for their answers develop a deep understanding that is critical to their future success in a mathematics and related fields.*

*-Principles to Actions, NCTM*

## Beyond show-and-tell

One of the challenges of facilitating discussion is structuring discussion like “show-and-tell” in which students share their strategies, but little connection to the mathematical goal is made. In true mathematical discourse, teachers carefully prepare and purposefully build on student thinking and guide the learning of the class in a productive disciplinary direction.

## Structuring discourse

One suggested way to plan for discussion is to use the 5 Practices for Orchestrating Mathematical Discourse, by Smith and Stein.

1. **Anticipate** student responses prior to the lesson
2. **Monitor** students work on and engagement with tasks
3. **Select** particular students to present their mathematical work
4. **Sequences** students responses in a specific order for discussion
5. **Connect** different students' responses and connect the responses to key mathematical ideas



## Resources for planning mathematical discussions

Watch a teacher plan for discussion [here](#).

[Planning guide](#)

[Principles to Actions](#)

[5 Practices for Orchestrating Productive Mathematical Discussions](#)

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## RISE Test Updates



Access the RISE Portal:

<https://utportal.questarai.com>

## New testing platform

The SAGE test has been replaced by RISE. Similar to before, a test portal is available. The RISE portal includes

- Question samplers for every item type
- Interim tests
- Benchmark tests

## Practice tools

Because the testing platform has changed, the tools used by students during the test have changed. For math, this means students will greatly benefit from seeing and playing with these tools prior to testing. The Equation Editor tool specifically will require some familiarity, especially for 6<sup>th</sup> grade.