



Collegial Circle Final Report

(To be filled out by Contact Person)

Contact Person: Teresa Henrichs

School: Mendon Center Elementary

Members: Kristin Thrash

Kelly Sanderson

Shawn Beldue

Anticipated Objectives: *To continue our Investigations Collegial Circle that began in July 2008.
*Align the Investigations Units with the PCSD Curriculum Focal Points and the NYS Standards,
looking at how this program matches up with the Focal Points and Standards and determining
where we need to supplement additional materials in order to fully support the program.

Beginning Date: 1-10-09

Ending Date: 06-06-09

of hours 6 hours

Attachments: Please attach copies of the following to this cover sheet

- Collegial Circle Attendance Log
- Collegial Circle Meeting Log
- Log of Strategy/Strategies Implemented
- Samples of implementation strategies or student work samples if applicable
- Collegial Circle Reflection Sheets (each member fills one out)

Final Reflections:

1. Was the outcome/goal of this Collegial Circle met? Explain.

We felt that we were able to meet the outcome/goal of this Collegial Circle. We spent each
meeting discussing and dissecting the Focal Points while also determining which units/lessons
from the Investigations program lined up with our curriculum. Members also brought/shared
supplemental materials that we felt would support the program.

2. How did the Collegial Circle assess whether the outcome was met?

At each meeting we reflected on and discussed how things were going in each of our classrooms.
At our last meeting we spent a lot of time discussing and reflecting on the year as a whole and
the work we had done together. We shared our personal assessment/observation on the impact
this program had our students and their learning/understandings in math this school year.

3. How did your work impact teaching/learning? Include student work samples, lesson plans, peer reviews, etc.

Throughout this circle and the twelve-hour circle we started in July, we all became more familiar
with the new Focal Points and the Investigations units of study. In addition, one of the circle

members was piloting the Saxton Math Program, which, when appropriate, she brought and shared instructional materials that she felt would enhance student learning and mastery of the Standards and Focal Points. In having this additional resource, along with the instructional materials from Scott Foresman (which were the core instructional materials that we had used previously), we were able to determine which math materials we should use to supplement and/or support the Investigations Math materials in order to fully address the Standards and Focal Points. At all of our meetings, especially during our last meeting, we discussed the impact we saw on our teaching and on student learning. We were all in agreement that the Investigations program has a lot of valuable units/lessons to assist students in acquiring a wider set of problem solving strategies and skills. We felt that many students needed a visual to go back to during our lessons and when completing homework assignments, as the Investigations program is inquiry based and very hands-on, which was difficult for some of our concrete thinkers/learners. We all agreed that the thinking and reasoning behind the Investigations program is wonderful as it helps to teach our students how to think "outside the box" and learn various strategies from their peers. We do miss the re-teaching component that the Investigations program lacks. In having members from two different buildings, we were able to share supplemental materials that some buildings/classrooms did not have or were not aware of. The sharing, coupled with the discussions that occurred at each meeting (and through email) supported not only the teachers, but our students as well.