What Does an Online Learning Community Make Possible?

Engaged Students and Strong Mathematical Thinking and Habits of Mind

The Problems of the Week program was designed by and for teachers. It takes advantage of the Internet to motivate and make use of students’ mathematical communication to deepen their conceptual understanding and strategy use. A new Problem Solving and Communication Activity Series provides a structured supplement for any curriculum to explicitly develop mathematical problem solving strategies. A library of over 1,200 non-routine problems, teacher support materials, student solutions and expert commentary round out this complete program. Research has shown the effective results for both high and low performing students.

http://mathforum.org/problems_puzzles_landing.html

Professional Development Connected to the Classroom

Since 1993 over 100,000 students have been mentored in the Math Forum’s Problems of the Week program. This experience, related NSF-funded research, and interactive student program provide a platform for working together to:

- understand student thinking and differentiate instruction
- practice effective questioning and intervention strategies
- deepen understanding of the key mathematical concepts and habits of mind at the core of the curriculum

http://mathforum.org/pd/

Access to Effective Technology and Implementation

The Math Tools community digital library of software for learning specific concepts and skills is full of advice, classroom stories, and teacher ratings of applets, calculator tools, and animations that engage students and develop competence. Our newsletters keep you informed about the newest resources and the most helpful discussions. Our online workshops get you started and introduce you to the network of supportive, resourceful colleagues.

- http://mathforum.org/mathtools/
- http://mathforum.org/mathtools/newsletter/
- http://mathforum.org/electronic.newsletter/

Great! Where Do I Sign Up? Do I Need Any Special Technology?

Free services: most of the programs above are free. Your name and email are required to sign up for the newsletters and participate in discussions.

The Problems of the Week program requires an inexpensive membership at the individual teacher, class, school, or district level. Access is 24/7 for all participants, staff, and family members from any Internet-connected computer. See http://mathforum.org/products/ for more purchase information.

No special equipment, technical support, or site license expense is involved.