

Spreading the Word About.....

SKYMATH: MAKING MATHEMATICAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH TEMPERATURE EXPLORATION

After three years of development and testing, SkyMath is a quality tool for teaching and learning mathematics. Getting a new curriculum broadly adopted takes more than making it available to people. Here are ways to spread the word about SkyMath.

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Where to Find SkyMath

The SkyMath module is distributed cost-free through the World Wide Web:

<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/staff/blynds/Skymath.html>

The SkyMath End-of-Unit Assessment, SkyMath Evaluation Report, and other resource materials are also available on the SkyMath homepage. You can link the SkyMath Web site to additional math and science-related Web sites.

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ENCOURAGE SHARING

Provide teachers the time and support to share on a one-to-one basis with their colleagues as well as via staff and parent meetings and teacher workshops. **Support** sharing among teachers through professional conferences of math, science, and middle school educators and publishing articles in professional educators' journals.

Organize a cadre of SkyMath teachers to serve as on-line mentors via e-mail. **Inform** school administrators about the value of SkyMath and gain their support. **Introduce** key people involved with state and district math and science curricula to SkyMath. **Involve** scientists and university faculty in discussions about the merits of SkyMath.

Incorporate SkyMath into district professional development plans and introduce it through teacher preparation courses at colleges and universities.

CONNECT WITH OTHER REFORM EFFORTS

Connect the teaching and learning approaches used in SkyMath with other weather-related or mathematics curriculum change efforts, and with state and district reform initiatives. Educators who are upgrading their schools' technological base are interested in finding innovative curricula that incorporate technology.

Link SkyMath to initiatives that provide schools with computer hardware and connect them to the Internet.

Use SkyMath as a Curriculum Development Model. The SkyMath curriculum development process and the module format are models for new mathematics curriculum design.

INVOLVE PARENTS

Parental support for new ways of teaching and learning is vital.

Meet with parents to provide information about SkyMath's mathematical learning, teaching approach, real-world context, and technology connection.

Provide sample lessons of SkyMath activities and instructions on how to download the module from the Internet.

Send home information updates and student logs about the SkyMath work going on in the classroom.

Involve parents and their children together in a SkyMath-related project that builds on family interests or real-life situations.