

Mathematics Transitions Meeting 2011

February 17 – 18, 2011

Riverton, WY

N = 37

1. Thursday evening working dinner on the Common Core, led by Bernie Schnorenberg

Average Rating: 8.27

Related to Schools/Schooling:

- Really got me thinking about critical steps our school may be taking.
- Really wanted to find out the curriculum implications that it has on the schools.
- I liked the sharing of ideas of how to make math better.
- Good discussion, certainly some issues with implementing all of these ideas for both students and teachers.

Related to Common Core:

- The session was very useful in presenting the CORE standards. Great overview and illustrations of the common core standards.
- I would have liked to hear more about the standards themselves and how it will change our current systems.

Other comments:

- It is difficult to raise the level of questions when most of the materials we use don't mirror that.

2. Friday morning large group discussion on Models of College Algebra

Average Rating: 8.01

Related to Levels:

- Good to see how the colleges and high schools approach the same subject.
- Huge difference between the same class at EWC and UW was a big shock to me.
- Discussed lots of complications going from high school to college, but would have liked to talk more on how to overcome those.

Related to Technology:

- Like the conversation about technology, it gave me some ideas.
- Big Question: Technology vs. No Technology
- I thought that college used graphing calculators more.

Related to Common Core:

- This was very helpful when thinking of connecting to the common core.
- Did not really help with finding out what are the new standards and what do we do about the low achievers.

3. Friday morning examination student work and discussion

Average Rating: 8.36

- Interesting to see how little technology is being implemented at college and university.
- Collaboration and sharing ideas are very beneficial to the K-12 teachers.
- Talking across grade levels was beneficial.
- It is always useful to hear comments/opinions from around the state.
- Good to see what high schools are doing and putting items into perspective of the college level.
- Our table had great discussions about expectations of teachers and students in high school vs. college.

4. Identify any next steps you see as valuable ways to move this work forward throughout the school year

Related to Meetings:

- Need more meetings to maybe organize a horizontal curriculum.
- Meetings like this should be longer and more often.
- Maybe a midyear update (somehow, video?) to keep these ideas and initiatives in motion.
- Include students (high school and undergraduates) next time.
- Can we discuss current state of assessment?!

Related to Information:

- More info on the common core standards.
- I am now aware of the dichotomy of politics and learning and each level of education.

Related to Implementation:

- Try to implement the 8 mathematical practices.
- Working with students to help them make better sense of problems.
- Be more explicit on the learner's goal intended with different tactics.
- Look at my lessons to see how they are compared to the 8 mathematics practices.
- Focus more on rigor with my upper level math, especially when it comes to grading.
- Share information with students on expectations in college. Try to move more toward those expectations in upper level classes.

5. What would you like to see included in a future high school to higher education Mathematics Transitions Meeting?

Related to Student Transitions:

- How to get students ready to meet college math requirements.
- Looking at specific skills that would benefit the student as they travel through the levels.
- How to help students convert to working on their own at college.
- Let's discuss real solutions to student prep difficulties. There is discussion of preparedness, but how do we solve the problems?

Related to Meeting Structure:

- Focused discussions. Pick 1 area.
- More on the common core standards.
- Expand to related fields like physics and chemistry – what do they need from us?
- Focus on technology?

Related to Teaching/Instruction:

- More ideas presented on teaching and learning.
- More sharing of what is being taught at each level.

6. If you have attended a Mathematics Transitions Meeting in the past, what have you taken from the meeting and implemented in your classroom?

- I appreciate the snippets that I have learned over the years. 1. Chatting with the continuum. 2. Hearing from the state department.
- The university is working harder to integrate its curriculum.
- Continue to, with even a stronger voice, emphasis underlying principles in courses of all levels I teach.
- A better understanding of common core and great conversation with college level teachers.

7. What did you learn in today's meeting that you will implement in your teaching?

Related to Teaching/Instruction:

- Examine my question techniques to engage students.
- Use more open ended questions.

- Think about use of technology.
- More about proposed assessments
- Balancing technology and rigor.
- Technology can be a great tool that students can teach each other to use. I do not use much class time to teach it.
- Educate my juniors and seniors so that it mirrors college expectations.
- Creating ownership
- Let student feel interest to learn mathematics.

Other Comments:

- I learned about the eight mathematics practices and will work on implementing these.
- Connections and differences that are important to similar classes at the 3 levels.
- Better communication with high school faculty.

8. Would you come to another transitions meeting like this again in the future?

Yes: 31 No: 0 Maybe: 3

- Good chance to think about what I am doing.
- I felt the connections made are important and to keep communication open between the different levels.
- Just conversation with those who talk the same language and shared problems.
- Get some useful info if it fit my schedule to attend.
- Very good conversations with all levels – very much needed!!
- Good collaboration.

9. How would you improve the professional development opportunity?

- The opportunity for educators to come together is always beneficial. We seem to be locked in our classrooms and don't see the magic that others are doing. That convocation is the necessary piece.
- More time to meet and exchange ideas.
- Invite a few students to comment or attend for some student feedback.
- I would like to see a breakdown of the success rates of students at the college level that addresses the path they did in high school.

10. List three suggestions for ways to get out information about meetings like this.

- Administrators pass on
- Administrators don't always pass on
- Emails
- Post card reminder – not email
- Newsletter to superintendents/administrators
- A summary newsletter sent out
- Flyers at school
- Text message
- Have attendees talk to faculty they work with
- Encourage inviting a new colleague. Perhaps a prize for the school with the most first-timers.
- WCET