

# Robyn Silbey Professional Development Raising Teacher Quality and Student Achievement in Mathematics



November is one of the more focused months of the school year. Classroom routines are in place, and students are ready for mind-stretching experiences. What's in store for the students in *your* school or district?



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## Math Scores Improve Nationally



About 400,000 fourth- and eighth-graders participated in the 2011 [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](#) in mathematics. Students responded to questions across five mathematics content areas: number properties and operations; measurement; geometry; data analysis, statistics, and probability; and algebra. Good news! Both fourth- and eighth-grade groups scored higher than in previous assessment years, and the achievement gap is narrowing. Check out the complete report provided by the [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](#).

## Hear Them! Hear Them!

You ask great questions. How can you get more than just a few students to respond?

For more open-ended questions:

1. Allow time for students to chat with a partner or share in small groups first. Students get their ideas validated, build confidence, and refine their thinking prior to sharing.

2. Use cooperative learning structures, such as Numbered Heads Together, to hold all members of every group accountable.

For procedural questions:



## Shout Out! Hastings Elementary



My observations of the talented teachers at [Hastings](#) reveals that students are engaged in truly interactive, student-centered learning every day. I am excited about my upcoming return visit, where teachers will apply what they learned during my staff meeting on [Speaking, Writing, and Problem Solving](#).

## Shout Out! St. Catherine's of Sienna

My presentations at [St. Catherine's](#) included work on [bar diagrams](#). The teachers wasted no time in applying what they learned to new problems that will challenge their students from Grade 1 through Algebra. Way to go, St. Catherine's!



## CCS Standards for Mathematical Practice

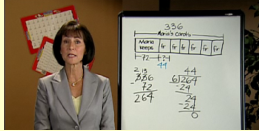


Use every pupil response strategies such as choral answers, individual white boards, or finger signals. Get data from all of your students instantly and simultaneously, which will empower you to make more appropriate instructional decisions on

the spot.

Contact [Robyn](#) to hear how you can see these questioning strategies in action.

## Opportunities Await!



Let's work together to expose the elegance of math and raise student achievement! Send [Robyn](#) an email at [rsilbey@hotmail.com](mailto:rsilbey@hotmail.com) or call 301-802-5285.

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The Coaches' Corner in the November issue of [Teaching Children Mathematics](#) (page 214) is devoted to the [Common Core State Standards for Mathematical Practice](#). These Standards describe mathematically proficient students in a highly effective classroom. Read [Robyn's](#) article for additional information.