

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



The annual high-stakes assessments are right around the corner. Are you building capacity in your students by fostering independence and resourcefulness? They'll need those qualities--not only for the test--but forever.



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### The Input/Output Rule

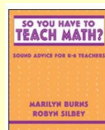


As a first year teacher, I spent Superbowl Sunday at a big party--in the corner, making a new center for my students. The following day, students completed the center--in 45 seconds!

As you plan, think about the time you spend, the *input*, on preparing for students' explorations and activities. Strive for it to be less than the *output*,

or the student product that results from your work. If your input is consistently greater than students' output, think about how you can release greater responsibility to the students. Empower students to increase their output and build resourcefulness, interdependence, and independence.

See more about the Input/Output Rule in Burns and Silbey's [So You Have to Teach Math: Sound Advice for K-6 Teachers.](#)



### Ron Larson's Math&YOU

### Shout Out! Patrick Henry Middle School



I had the pleasure of observing several classes at [Patrick Henry Middle School](#) in Houston Independent School District. In virtually every classroom:

- Students were sitting with partners or in small groups.
- Manipulatives were visible and regularly used.
- Learning goals were posted.
- Meaningful activities were planned for the entire 90-minute math block.

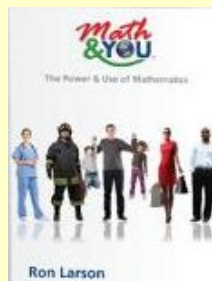
Great going, Patrick Henry Middle School!

### Informal Walkthroughs

children  
teaching  
mathematics

In the Coaches' Corner of February's [Teaching Children Mathematics](#), explore the positive power of informal walkthroughs. These 2-5

Ron Larson's [Math&YOU](#) is marketed as a book about quantitative literacy for students, but it is so much more!



Among other topics, Ron guides us to explore the Mathematics of Consumption, Inflation & Depreciation, Taxation, and Borrowing & Saving. In these chapters, the mathematics of earning, saving, and spending money are skillfully revealed in situations that everyone faces in daily life. [Math&YOU](#) provides a wealth of knowledge that fosters independence for students of all ages.

Enjoy the eye-opening reality about the power, grace, and elegance of mathematics in [Math&YOU!](#)

minute visits are worth their weight in benefits for teachers, students, and coaches.



See [Robyn's](#) article, page 333, for more details.

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## Boost Achievement!



Is everyone in your district or building doing their best work? How can you motivate more people-- students *and* teachers, to strive for their own excellence?

Let's collaborate to make great things happen! Send [Robyn](#) an email at [rsilbey@hotmail.com](mailto:rsilbey@hotmail.com) or call 301-802-5285.