



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



How did you get refreshed and refueled this summer? Here are some of my great finds, along with some landmark ideas that stand the test of time.



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Polya says, It's *not* just about the Solution!



Research shows that once students comprehend the problem and devise a plan, they can often compute the solution. However, students don't always understand the problem. In his landmark 1945 article, "[How to Solve It](#)," Polya's Problem Solving stages clearly indicate that *understanding* the context of a

problem and devising a *plan* are critical precursors to *solving*. Try this one day:

1. Discuss the context of a problem
2. Identify what is known and unknown
3. Predict the magnitude of the solution
4. Devise a solution plan

Then, *without solving*, move on to the next problem and repeat the process. This sends a clear message to students that comprehension and planning are critical stages of the problem solving process.

Would you like to hear more or participate in a workshop on this topic? Contact **Robyn!**

Robyn joins New Leaders for New Schools

I am proud to be on the Math Faculty of New Leaders for New Schools. Their [mission](#) is "to ensure high academic achievement for every student by attracting and preparing outstanding leaders and supporting the



Shout Out! [Beth's Bookshelf](#)



Beth Skipper has graciously given us "[Beth's Bookshelf](#)," a unique resource in which she reviews children's literature related to mathematics. The ideas accompanying each book provoke deep thinking about mathematics content and engage children. This blog must be shared with teachers everywhere. Thanks, Beth!

Dan Meyer's Math Curriculum Makeover



About a half-million people found this post by [Dan Meyer](#) before I did, but it's not too late to share. Meyer's brief but inspirational video clearly shows how we can stimulate students with compelling mathematics found in everyday life. It's a

performance of the urban public schools they lead." Every Principal Intern, or Resident, I met during the Summer Foundations Training Institute was highly articulate and committed to transforming education in the urban areas across the nation.

Reach Out

Imagine the impact of collaboration!
Let's work together!

Explore my website,
www.robysilbey.com for ideas.



Invite me to visit your ESC, district or school.

Drop me an email at rsilbey@hotmail.com, or call 301-802-5285.

must-see!

TCM Boasts New Coaches' Corner

To meet the demands of the ever-increasing presence of the elementary math specialist, TCM has a new feature called Coaches' Corner. Read Robyn's next coaching tip, "Set the Destination, Chart the Course" in the upcoming September issue, page 69.