



Monday, November 7, 2005

## Math program gets global

### New method re-examines problems

By Howard McEwen  
Enquirer contributor

It's a grade school kid's dream: math without memorizing multiplication tables.

Northern Kentucky University will host a public discussion 3:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday on creative mathematics that promises just that. The program, "Extending the Mathematical Challenge: A Look at Teaching Mathematics from Around the Globe," will feature professors from Connecticut, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan and Germany.

Creative mathematics is being studied in classrooms in Northern Kentucky. Teachers at Lincoln Elementary in Dayton and Glenn O. Swing Elementary in Covington already are using the method.

Linda Sheffield, a professor at NKU, is a co-director for the program called Mentoring Mathematical Minds.

She describes it as helping kids think more like mathematicians by developing their own methods for problem solving.

The goal is to move away from traditional computation and more toward understanding concepts.

Traditional methods emphasize students being told how to solve a particular type of problem, and then practicing it repeatedly. The new concept focuses on the process to solving the problem.

Those dreaded multiplication tables? In traditional settings, to learn the tables up to the 10s, students must drill 100 different facts:  $1 \times 1 = 1$ ,  $1 \times 2 = 2$ , etc. "But if the child learns the patterns of the multiplication table, they will have an understanding on how to reach the answer," Sheffield said.

Participating teachers spent two weeks learning how to teach the program. This is followed with several days of supplemental training throughout the year.

Cami Young, who has taught math at Lincoln Elementary for eight years, thinks the program shows promise.

"It involves more higher-level thinking. A lot of the material involves content that I remember in middle school and high school. Then again, students are expected to know and do a lot more now."

Students enjoy the program's method of working in groups and sharing answers, but grumble about the increased use of word problems and written responses. "Some moan when we have to complete the writing component. Writing is not always a favorite," Young said.

Sheffield has presented what she's learned to various audiences, including one in China where that country's leaders are hoping more creative students will lead to more creative scientists in the future.



**ZOOM** The Enquirer/Patrick Reddy  
Cami Young, a fourth-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School in Dayton, works with students using a math game that teaches about factors and multiples.

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The seminar will be held in the business/education/psychology building, second-floor lobby.

## **PAROCHIAL AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS CALENDAR - Blessed Sacrament**

**Nov. 7** Prayer service, 8 a.m. Gym.

**Nov. 7** Student Council meeting, 2:35 p.m. Room 8A.

**Nov. 8** Traveling Galaxy Show for fourth grade, 8 a.m.-noon.

**Nov. 8** First Penance Parent meeting, 7 p.m.

**Nov. 9** Mass for grades 5-8, 8 a.m.

**Nov. 9** Quick Recall Match vs. Tichenor Middle, 5:15 p.m. Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education office, 500 Graves Ave., Erlanger.

**Nov. 10** Newspaper Club meeting, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Computer Lab.

## **Covington Catholic High**

**Nov. 8** Student Senate meeting, 7:15 a.m.

**Nov. 8** Pray the Rosary, 7:30 a.m.

**Nov. 10** Bingo, 7 p.m.

**Nov. 10** Pray the Rosary, 7:30 a.m.

## **Covington Latin**

**Nov. 7** Deadline for ski and snowboard club registration.

**Nov. 10** Yearbook group pictures.

## **Mary Queen of Heaven**

**Nov. 10** Market Day pickup, 6:30 p.m.

## **St. Anthony**

**Nov. 6** Skating party, 4:30-6:30 p.m. \$2. Lloyd's Rollerink.

## **St. Paul, Florence**

**Nov. 8** Everybody Counts Week All-School Mass, 8:15 a.m. Everybody Counts Week event.

## **Villa Madonna Academy**

**Nov. 9** Parent's Club meeting, 8 a.m.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR - Boone County Schools**

**Nov. 10** Board of Education meeting, Ralph Rush Staff Development Center, 7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 16** Boone County Retired Teachers meeting, 11 a.m., Ryan's Family Steak House, 40 Cavalier Court, Florence.

## **Conner High**

**Nov. 12** Senior dinner dance

**Nov. 17** Site-based council meeting, 6 p.m. Cafeteria.

## **Ryle High**

**Nov. 10** Parent Teacher Student Association meeting, 6 p.m.

**Nov. 12** Senior dinner Dance.

## **Conner Middle**

**Nov. 16** Picture retake day.

**Nov. 18** Dance.

## **Gray Middle**

**Nov. 14** Site-based council meeting, 6 p.m.

## **Burlington Elementary**

**Nov. 9** Parent Teacher Association Family Night at McDonald's on Ky. 18, 5-8 p.m.

**Nov. 10** Strengthening Families class, 5:30 p.m.

**Nov. 14** College Blitz for second grade, 9 a.m.

## **Collins Elementary**

**Nov. 7** Picture retake day.

**Nov. 7** Monday Night Math for grades 4-5, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

**Nov. 9** 4H Art Club Café, 3:50-5 p.m.

**Nov. 10** Girl Scouts Café, 3:50-5 p.m.

**Nov. 11** Kentucky author and illustrator Paul Brett Johnson visits. Johnson's most recent book is "Little Bunny Foo Foo: Told And Sung By The Good Fairy."

## **Florence Elementary**

**Nov. 7-11** Grandparents Week.

**Nov. 8** Parent Teacher Organization meeting, followed by "Computer Night," 7 p.m.

## **Goodridge Elementary**

**Nov. 7-11** Jump rope for heart during gym.

## **Kelly Elementary**

**Nov. 10** 5th-grade speaker, 1:30-2:50 p.m.

**Nov. 10** Girl Zone meeting, 4-4:15 p.m. cafeteria.

**Nov. 11** 5th-grade CATS assembly, 1 p.m. Library.

**Nov. 11** Girls' basketball at North Pointe Elementary, 8 p.m.

**Nov. 14** Self-esteem group, 1:30 p.m.

### **New Haven Elementary**

**Nov. 15** Site-based council meeting, 4:30 p.m.

### **North Pointe Elementary**

**Nov. 8** Market day pickup, 3:30 p.m.

**Nov. 10** Picture retake day.

**Nov. 10** Best of Bunch Lunch, 11 a.m.

**Nov. 14-18** Parent Teacher Association "Mountain of Food" drive.

### **Stephens Elementary**

**Nov. 11** Picture retake day.

### **Yealey Elementary**

**Nov. 10** Picture retake day.

**Nov. 15** Parent Teacher Organization meeting, 6 p.m.

**Nov. 15** Spaghetti dinner and Night of the Arts, 7 p.m.

### **Walton-Verona Independent**

**Nov. 16** Board of Education, 7 p.m. At Walton-Verona Elementary.

### **Walton-Verona High**

**Nov. 10** Market day pickup, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### **Walton-Verona Elementary**

**Nov. 10** Market Day pick-up, 6:30-7:30 p.m. At Walton-Verona High.

### **CAMPBELL COUNTY - Bellevue Independent**

**Nov. 16** Early release, 2:15 p.m.

### **Bellevue High**

**Nov. 11** Veterans Day ceremony, 2 p.m.

**Nov. 14** Site-based council meeting, 6 p.m. library.

**Nov. 15** Band Boosters meeting, 6-9 p.m. Band room.

### **Grandview Elementary**

**Nov. 21** Kindergarten Movie Night, 6 p.m. Commons.

### **Campbell County Schools - Campbell County High**

**Nov. 10** Parent Teacher Student Association meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 11-12** Band of Pride performs at Grand Nationals Competition, RCA Dome, Indianapolis.

### **Cline Elementary**

**Nov. 10** Family Resource Center Celebrate Families third session begins: "Listening to Each Other."

**Nov. 11** Grandparents Day.

### **Highland Heights Elementary**

**Nov. 14** Site-based council meeting, 4 p.m.

### **Fort Thomas Independent - Highlands Middle**

**Nov. 8** Site-based council, 4 p.m.

### **Johnson Elementary**

**Nov. 9** Site-based council, 3:30 p.m.

### **Newport Independent - Newport Middle**

**Nov. 8** Site-based council, 5:30 p.m.

### **Mildred Dean Elementary**

**Nov. 14** Site-based council, 4 p.m.

### **Fourth Street Elementary**

**Nov. 8** Site-based council, 6:15 p.m.

### **KENTON COUNTY - Beechwood Independent**

**Nov. 7-11** Red Ribbon Week.

**Nov. 8** Parent conferences.

### **Beechwood High**

**Nov. 7** Athletic Boosters meeting, 7:30 p.m. Commons.

**Nov. 7** Mothers Against Drunk Drive assembly, 8:30 a.m.-9:10 p.m. For grades 7-12.

**Nov. 9** Site-based council, 3:30 p.m.

**Nov. 12** All Alumni Reunion, 8 p.m.-midnight. For all graduates, 1935-2005.

### **Covington Independent - Latonia Elementary**

**Nov. 8** Site-based council, 4 p.m.

### **Glenn O. Swing Elementary**

**Nov. 8** Site-based council, 6 p.m.

### **Elsmere-Erlanger Independent Schools**

**Nov. 10** Board of Education, 7 p.m.

### **Ludlow Independent Schools - Ludlow High**

**Nov. 8** Site-based council, 4 p.m.

### **Ludlow Middle**

**Nov. 8** Site-based council, 4 p.m.

### **Goetz Elementary**

**Nov. 8** Site-based council, 3:45 p.m.

**Nov. 16** Early release, 1:15 p.m.

**Nov. 16** Picture retake day.

### **Ryland Heights Elementary**

**Nov. 7-11** Book Fair.

**Nov. 8** Parent Teacher Association meeting with "Bedtime Story" program and book fair, 7 p.m.

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