

## Reform Math in Virginia

Tim Herrity, Tucker Math Teacher

Meeting on November 29, 2011

- Tim spoke to Department of Education (DOE) last year, members of the Virginia General Assembly and a member of the Virginia Governor's office.
- Tim wants to test for Algebra readiness.
- In years past, literacy tests were used:
  1. The students completed Math 6 (middle school)
  2. Students took the test.
  3. If student failed, he/she were remediated for 45 minutes a day and retook the test.
  4. The students completed Math 7 (middle school)
  5. Repeat of #2 and #3.
  6. The students completed Math 8 (middle school)
  7. If the student failed, he/she did not go onto high school.
- Tim believes if students do not know their multiplication tables, they will have a difficult time factoring equations in algebra. Tim begins the year with multiplication table quizzes.
- Presently, many of our students do not know number facts, integers, fractions, decimals, and proportions
- Tim believes that the use of calculators impedes learning. Students are told how to input numbers and press certain functions/applications on their calculators. The calculators give the students the answer. The student has no knowledge of how or why the problem worked.
- When I asked Tim what needs to be emphasized to help students to be successful, he listed three things:
  1. Parental involvement
  2. Student desire
  3. Proper teaching
- Delegate Dave Albo of the Virginia General Assembly has agreed to sponsor a bill concerning reforming math in our state. Tim drafted a bill and it is now in the Virginia General Assembly's Division of Legislative Services to be properly written.

### How can you help?

- Email your thoughts/comments to Tim Herrity at [tsherrity@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:tsherrity@henrico.k12.va.us). Tim will be meeting with Virginia delegates and senators and members of the Virginia Department in Education to gather support for the House Bill.

Notes submitted by Ann Slough, December 5, 2011