

Lesson Study

In *The Teaching Gap* (1999), James W. Stigler and James Hiebert describe differences between mathematics instruction in Japan and the United States. They attribute some of these differences to a commonly used method of professional development in Japan called lesson study: “The lesson-study process has an unrelenting focus on student learning. All efforts to improve lessons are evaluated with respect to clearly specified learning goals, and revisions are always justified with respect to student thinking and learning” (p. 121). Over the past decade, many groups of educators in North America have implemented various forms of lesson study.

The *Mathematics Teacher* Editorial Panel invites manuscripts on implementing lesson study in grades 8–14 mathematics instruction. Articles could

include responses to the following questions:

- What parts of the lesson study process—setting goals, analyzing content, planning, observing the research lesson, revising, teaching the revised research lesson, debriefing, writing a report—have proven the most useful for improving mathematics instruction?
- What barriers have you overcome and what adaptations have you made while trying to implement lesson study in a North American mathematics teaching culture?
- What kind of administrative support was necessary for your successful implementation of lesson study?
- What strategies did you use to convince mathematics teachers of the value of this method?

- How has the use of lesson study influenced your day-to-day mathematics lesson planning?
- What influence has your interaction among colleagues during lesson study had on your subsequent collaboration with them?
- How have collaborative lessons affected students’ learning of mathematics?

We invite those with experience in implementing lesson study with mathematics teachers to submit manuscripts to the *Mathematics Teacher* at mt.msubmit.net. Be sure to check the box indicating that this manuscript is for the lesson study call. Guidelines for the preparation of manuscripts can be obtained at my.nctm.org/eresources/submission_mt.asp or in the October 2008 issue of the journal. ∞

