

Can all your 8th and 9th graders
solve this equation?
 $2(2x + 1) = 3x + 9$

Can all your students solve
this verbal problem?

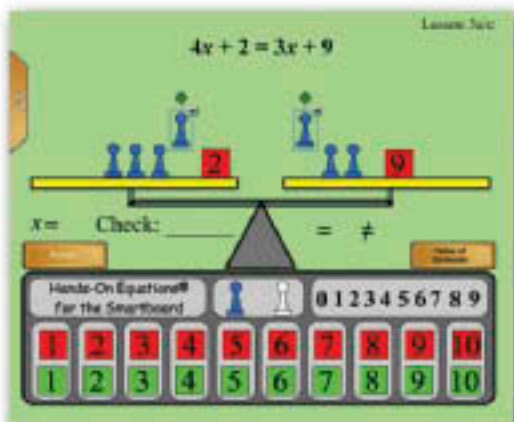
Find three consecutive even numbers such
that if you double the sum of the first
two you get the same thing as if you
tripled the 3rd.

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Math Tools = Inspired Students

The language of mathematics illuminates the world around us. Can the same language that constructed pyramids thousands of years ago chart the orbit of stars we have yet to discover? How do we predict tides that have eternally lapped at seashores while forecasting weather that has yet to occur? The mathematical connections from past to present and the metamorphosis from algorithm to application cast a spell over all who make sense of the intrigue of mathematics.

Teaching mathematics, however, requires more than just a love for its logic and beauty. By questioning and supporting students as they make conjectures and justify results—through communication and reasoning, through assessment, and by guiding students to make sense of concepts and procedures—teachers give students the tools to navigate life successfully.

More than forty states have now adopted the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM 2010). The six conceptual categories for high school students—number and quantity, algebra, functions, modeling, geometry, and probability and statistics—mirror the content found in the departments and articles published in *Mathematics Teacher*. As readers begin to implement the Common Core Standards or other state standards in their classrooms, they will see strategies in *MT* for teaching the standards with reasoning and sense making and will gain clarity about the level of rigor associated with each one.

Posing and solving novel or complex problems gives students an opportunity to analyze a problem and strategize about paths to a solution. Beginning with this volume year, a new department—Problem Solvers—will be featured in the August and April issues. A problem will be posed for teachers to give to students, and teachers are encouraged to submit their students' solutions for publication in a future issue of the journal.

The *MT* departments—Reader Reflections, Media Clips, Mathematical Lens, Calendar, Activities for Students, Connecting Research to Teaching, Technology Tips, Delving Deeper, The Back Page: My Favorite Lesson, and now Problem Solvers—will continue to provide teachers with material to help them daily. Although the *MT* volume year runs from August through May, the Calendar will reflect the months of September through June, respectively.

Regarding feature articles, the 2011 *MT* Focus Issue, which will appear in November and whose theme is “Teaching Geometry,” will be fully packed. To set the stage, a few geometry articles will appear in the September and October issues as a preview of things to come.

The current issue is jam-packed as well. Samuel Otten provides some answers to the age-old question “When am I ever going to use this?” Colin Foster presents a British view on student-generated questions, Beth Cory and Ken Smith discuss ways to help students understand limits of sequences, and in the cover story Sheldon Gordon continues his discussion of error analysis.

How do students explore the world of mathematics in your classroom? What insights into discovery or assessment can you share with others? What strategy have you successfully used in your classroom? How do students communicate their reasoning?

Share your expertise with other mathematics educators by submitting a feature article or one applicable to any of the departments. *MT* looks forward to hearing from you!

REFERENCE

Common Core State Standards Initiative. 2010. *Common Core State Standards for Mathematics*. Washington, DC: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards/mathematics>.



The Editorial Panel of *Mathematics Teacher*: (back row) John Donovan, Dane Camp, Greg Stephens, Stan Izen; (front row) Sarah Schuhl, Dan Canada, Albert Goetz, Stephen Blair, Allison Golden, Sandra Madden.



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