

## **ND Prime Fall Meeting**

### **Wednesday September 28 5:30-8 pm**

### **Family Life Center 212**

This is the first of three meetings of the ND PRIME MSP participants during the 2011-12 academic year. The purpose of these meetings is to provide project updates to participants, to hear reports of participants' activities in their own schools, and to give participants the chance to interact with each other and project leaders to discuss mathematics education issues relating to their teaching.

The second meeting will take place in January, and the third meeting will be during the NDCTM spring conference scheduled for March 30-31 in Jamestown. Participants are also encouraged to attend the NDCTM fall meeting October 20-21 in Bismarck. ND PRIME participants are encouraged to submit proposals to speak (possibly joint presentations together with other participants) at the math conferences as one way of meeting the reporting requirement of this project. These meetings and the reporting expectations are a component of the 3-credit EDUC 781 course in which all participants enrolled.

### **Teacher Circles and Action Research**

Participants in the ND PRIME project are expected to participate in two activities during the year:

- Participate in a teacher circle (monthly meetings for about 2 hours with other math teachers)
- Conduct an Action Research project in their own classroom

The teacher circles are to be formed by project participants and can involve project participants or other teachers. Teacher circles are a means for teachers to work together collaboratively to improve mathematics instructions through (a) a focus on problem-solving; (b) making mathematics fun; and (c) gaining a deeper understanding of mathematics content by teachers and, consequently, their students. Information about this national project can be found on the web: <http://www.mathteacherscircle.org/>

ND PRIME teacher circles (our MSP project participants) can choose their own agenda to increase their problem solving, fun, and increased content knowledge: (a) an advanced topic in mathematics for further study, (b) examination of the teaching and learning of middle or high school mathematics to, or (c) discussion and collaboration on participants' action research projects. Each teacher circle should inform the project leaders of their meeting schedule so that a representative of the leadership group can attend. We also can help to identify resource mathematicians to work with the group. After each meeting a brief report of the activities and outcomes of the meeting should be sent to Dogan Comez.

The action research project is to be an examination of some aspect of each teacher's own classroom. Participants should choose something they want to try to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics in their own classroom. The teacher should describe the change they intend to make, the rationale for that change, and how they will gather information to determine how well the change worked to improve student learning and engagement. Participants will prepare a report of the activity and its impact during the spring semester. This report could be the basis of a presentation that they make at the NDCTM spring conference or a written report submitted to the ND PRIME project leaders no later than May 2012.

We will discuss plans for both the teacher circles and action research projects at the September meeting. Participants should come prepared with their preliminary plans for both so that we can finalize and start the activities. Both of these activities are components of the 3-credit EDUC 781 course, *Mathematics Teaching and Curriculum*.

The agenda for the September 28 meeting follows. Participants should note that there are expectations for each participant to have completed planning for activities that are to occur during the academic year and to come to the meeting prepared to report to the group about those planned activities.

### 5:30 pm Sharp!

- Welcome (Comez and Martin)
- Project announcements (Leadership Group)
- Catered dinner

### 6 pm

- Teacher Circles (Leadership Group): Each participant should be a member of a teacher circle that will meet at least monthly throughout the year at a mutually arranged time. Inform the PRIME leadership group of membership and meeting times so that we can attend at least some of those meetings during the year. The leadership group can help to arrange for visits by mathematicians or mathematics educators if desired.
- Reports from each teacher circle group

### 6:20 pm

- Action Research Reports: Each participant will be asked to report (no more than 5 minutes—if **everyone** takes the full 5 minutes it will last for 2 hours!) on some **action** that they plan to take in their own teaching during the academic year. Remember that this is not so much a formal research project as an effort by each teacher to **try something in their class that they expect will enhance student learning**. During the summer academy you worked on a variety of mathematics activities involving geometry and statistics, you read several papers about teaching and learning mathematics, and you experienced alternate teaching and assessment strategies including the use of technologies. Those experiences were designed to trigger some reflection on teaching and learning in your own classroom. The action research project is your opportunity to try something new and to gather information about how well it worked to enhance student learning in your own classroom. Each participant will report on his or her action research by the end of the academic year. This could be a written report or a presentation about the experience that is made at the spring NDCTM conference (please also plan to submit a copy of that presentation to the PRIME leadership group).

### 7:45 pm

Session wrap—final thoughts, questions and announcements.

### 8 pm Sharp!

Meeting ends