PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Standards for Mathematical Practice Implementation Guide

Introduction

The eight Standards for Mathematical Practice describe features of lesson design, teaching pedagogy, and student actions that will lead to a true conceptual understanding of the mathematics standards. The Walch lessons, practice problems, and Problem-Based Tasks lend themselves to teaching through this framework. When the Walch resources are combined with high-level questioning and engaging teacher decisions in the classroom, it will lead to high-level math instruction and student achievement.

Here is a brief description of the SMPs and how they can be applied in the classroom:

CCSS.MP.1: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

Students will read, interpret, and understand complicated mathematical and real-world problems, and they will be willing to try multiple methods with the ultimate goal of determining the correct answer. Strategies such as annotation and student discourse can lead to improvement on this standard. Presenting students with higher-level problems is essential to ensuring students achieve maximum understanding. Teacher prompts that can enhance this standard include:

- What is the problem asking you to solve?
- What are some (other) strategies you could use to solve this problem?
- Compare your answer with a classmate's answer. Who is correct? Why?

CCSS.MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

Mathematical reasoning with numbers and variables is essential to understanding the connections among the standards. Students must be able to discover and formalize general rules using numbers and variables, and apply them to determine numerical quantities in other situations. Teacher prompts that can enhance this standard include:

- Substitute realistic numbers into the situation.
- What operation/strategy would you use?
- Will your strategy work for any number?
- For which categories of numbers (negative integers, all real numbers, etc.) will your strategy work?

CCSS.MP.3: Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

Many students are most concerned with the "what" aspects of mathematics, i.e. "what" do we do or "what" is the answer. However, math educators must develop the "why" of mathematics. Students must learn to question algorithms, challenge answers, and justify their reasoning in order to truly understand the concepts behind their answers. Teacher prompts that can enhance this standard include:

- How did you determine your answer?
- Why did you choose that strategy?
- Defend your answer based on a real-world situation.

CCSS.MP.4: Model with mathematics.

An important goal of mathematics instruction is for students to be able to apply mathematics to the world around them. Students should be able to link a real problem to a mathematical concept, identify quantities that are modeled well with mathematics, and use mathematics to find a solution. Emphasizing this standard will help students represent and interpret information using physical, visual, and abstract models. Encourage students to use any or all of their learning experiences to gain a deep and flexible understanding of mathematics. Teacher prompts that can enhance this standard include:

- Can you represent this situation with a visual model?
- How will it help you solve the problem?
- What information is needed to solve this problem?
- Is there another way to solve this problem?
- While working to solve this problem, what do you notice/wonder?

CCSS.MP.5: Use appropriate tools strategically.

There are many available tools suitable for mathematics, such as calculators, manipulatives, formulas, rulers, computers, and developed mathematical strategies. Choosing and using the correct tool to work through a problem is an important skill for mathematicians. Teacher prompts that can enhance this standard include:

- Can you graph this equation in the calculator to see a relationship?
- What formula or strategy might help you determine the answer to this question?
- How can you represent the situation using handheld tools (rulers, protractors, etc.) to determine an answer?

CCSS.MP.6: Attend to precision.

When using mathematics to solve problems, an answer can be considered correct only if it is sufficiently precise and accurate for the situation to which it pertains. When applying mathematics, it is vital to clearly define the question, the reasoning, the answer, and the explanation. Vocabulary, units, numerical responses, and pictures must be represented precisely in questions and answers to ensure that the mathematical solutions represent the true answer to a question. Teacher prompts that can enhance this standard include:

- What does your answer represent in a real-world context?
- Is your answer reasonable based on your initial estimate?
- What units of measure help describe your numerical answer?

CCSS.MP.7: Look for and make use of structure.

Structure, whether geometric, algebraic, statistical, or numerical, is an important aspect of mathematical reasoning that students often overlook. Teachers often explicitly refer to geometric and other visual structures as explanations of mathematical concepts, but algebraic and numerical structures can often be just as important in analyzing and interpreting mathematical situations. These structures yield clues as to the meaning of expressions, equations, graphs, and other representations. As students interpret these structures, they will gain a greater understanding of the mathematical concepts. Teacher prompts that can enhance this standard include:

- What do the characteristics of the graph tell us about the situation?
- What do each of the variables and numbers in the equation/formula represent?
- How are these situations the same and different based on their representations?

CCSS.MP.8: Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Just as patterns appear in real life, patterns appear throughout the subject of mathematics. Recognizing and applying these patterns, and applying the reasoning contained within, is one of the most important skills teachers can instill in their students. Rather than teaching isolated algorithms to determine answers, have students discover relationships, create their own algorithms, and apply the reasoning to other situations. These skills can be applied throughout their education and will enrich their lives after high school. Teacher prompts that can enhance this standard include:

- What relationship do you notice in the graph/table/numbers?
- Why did you choose to use this process to solve this word problem/equation?
- How can you apply this process in other situations?