



St. Johns County School District
Annual Professional Learning Conference



September 25, 2026

Secondary Math

Location: Creekside High School

Welcome and Opening Keynote
K-12 Math Pact to Engage All Students
Dr. Sarah Bush
8:00-10:00
Location: Cafeteria

Choice Session 1
10:15-11:15
Various Locations
**see back*

Lunch
11:15-12:45
**on your own*

Choice Session 2
1:00-1:45
Various Locations
**see back*

PLC Time
1:50-2:35

Choice Session 3
2:40-3:25
Various Locations
**see back*

Session and Audience	Audience	Location	Presenter
Choice Session 1: 10:15-11:15			
Concrete Models for Powerful Math Learning	Grades 6-8	245	Michelle Mikes, <i>Hand2Mind</i>
Discover Mathspace: Your Free Resource for Personalized Learning	Grades 6-12	690	Jonathan Templin
SJCSD: From Breaking Barriers to Breakthroughs: Differentiating for Students with Autism	Grades 6-12	230	District ESE Specialist
Math Nation 101: Getting Started	6-8, A1H (new teachers only)	540	Crystal Emery
Supporting Secondary Students Through Computational Missteps	Grades 6-12	240	Amy Strickland and Dr. LaMicah Lindsey, <i>UF Lastinger Center for Learning</i>
Talk the Talk: Walk the Walk: Bringing Mathematical Thinking to Life	Grades 6-12	525	Jenna Harden, <i>Savvas</i>
K-12 Math Pact to Engage Students	Grades 6-12	270	Dr. Sarah Bush, <i>University of Central Florida and McGraw Hill</i>
Using the B1G-M to Strengthen Mathematics Instruction	Grades 6-12	530 & 535	Anthony Severson and Suzanne Fielder, <i>FLDOE</i>
Choice Session 2: 1:00-1:45			
Bringing Algebra and Geometry to Life	Grades 9-12	245	Michelle Mikes, <i>Hand2Mind</i>
Discover Mathspace: Your Free Resource for Personalized Learning	Grades 6-12	690	Jonathan Templin
SJCSD: From Breaking Barriers to Breakthroughs: Differentiating for Students with Autism	Grades 6-12	230	District ESE Specialist
Math Nation: Differentiation, Remediation, and Support Tools	Grades 6-8	540	Crystal Emery
New Teacher Session	Grades 6-12	685	Jessica Plant & Jenna Yow
One Task, Many Possibilities: Leveraging Rich Tasks for Mathematical Thinking	Grades 6-12	675	Dr. Terrie Galanti, <i>University of North Florida</i>
Ready, Set, Solve! Inside the World of MathCounts	Grades 6-8	235	Ashely Finley, Savannah Britt, Miriam Amatangelo, Emily McCullough
Slip or Sticking Point? Student Errors and Misconceptions	Grades 6-12	240	Amy Strickland and Dr. LaMicah Lindsey, <i>UF Lastinger Center for Learning</i>
Strengthening Mathematics Task Through Benchmark-Aligned High-Quality Instruction	Grades 6-8	530	Anthony Severson and Suzanne Fielder, <i>FLDOE</i>
Strengthening Mathematics Task Through Benchmark-Aligned High-Quality Instruction	Grades 9-12	535	Anthony Severson and Suzanne Fielder, <i>FLDOE</i>
Talk the Talk: Walk the Walk: Bringing Mathematical Thinking to Life	Grades 6-12	525	Jenna Harden, <i>Savvas</i>
Tech Rundown	Grades 6-12	680	Dr. Maggie Byrns, <i>Flagler College</i>
Choice Session 3: 2:40-3:25			
Discover Mathspace: Your Free Resource for Personalized Learning	Grades 6-12	690	Jonathan Templin
SJCSD: From Breaking Barriers to Breakthroughs: Differentiating for Students with Autism	Grades 6-12	230	District ESE Specialist
High School Math Competition Brainstorm	Grades 9-12	685	Jenna Yow
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Talk the Talk: Walk the Walk: Bringing Mathematical Thinking to Life	Grade 6-12	525	Jenna Harden, <i>Savvas</i>

Session Descriptions

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sarah Bush

K-12 Math Pact to Engage All Students

Do you ever start to teach a mathematics concept and feel like you're staring at a sea of bewildered faces? What happens when you discover students previously learned a calculation trick or a mnemonic that has muddled their long-term understanding? When "rules" seem to change from year to year, teacher to teacher, or school to school, mathematics can seem like a disconnected mystery for students. Clear up the confusion through consistent language and notation, stop teaching "Rules that Expire," and use high-quality strategies that promote deep understanding through multiple representations and developing strong mathematical generalizations. We will explore each component of the Math Pact and you'll engage in meaningful tasks that bring these components to life.

Breakout Session #1 (10:15-11:15am)

Concrete Models for Powerful Math Learning

Michelle Mikes, Hand2Mind

Discover how manipulatives can transform middle school math instruction. Through hands-on exploration with Base Ten Blocks, Square Tiles, and Fraction Towers, educators will learn strategies for teaching exponents, square roots, and fraction division to build conceptual understanding and number sense with students.

Discover Mathspace: Your Free Resource for Personalized Learning

Jonathan Templin

*Did you know you already have access to Mathspace at no cost? Join us for an interactive, hands-on virtual training to discover this dynamic online math resource and see how it can support student learning through personalized practice, instant feedback, and engaging instructional tools. Designed for teachers who are new to the platform, this session will guide you step-by-step through setup and implementation so you can start using Mathspace with your students right away. Come ready to explore, create, and leave with lessons and strategies you can put into practice immediately. **Please bring your charged laptop**, as participants will be actively working within the platform throughout the session.*

From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Differentiating for Students with Autism

SJCSD ESE Program Specialist

Explore practical strategies to support students with autism by removing barriers through purposeful differentiation and scaffolding. Participants will learn ways to strengthen communication, executive functioning, participation, and access to grade-level content while creating more inclusive learning environments.

Math Nation 101: Getting Started

Crystal Emery

This introductory session is designed for teachers who are new to Math Nation or in years 1-3. Participants will explore the core features of the Math Nation platform, learn how to access and assign resources, navigate the student and teacher dashboards, and utilize workbooks and intervention tools to support instruction. Teachers will leave with practical strategies for integrating Math Nation into daily classroom routines and maximizing student engagement and achievement.

Supporting Secondary Students Through Computational Missteps

Amy Strickland and Dr. LaMicah Lindsey, UF Lastinger Center for Learning

Students often make computational errors rooted in number sense, but these are issues rarely addressed directly in the curriculum. This session explores strategies for identifying and addressing these mistakes to support deeper understanding and more accurate computation across secondary math topics.

Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk: Bringing Mathematical Thinking to Life

Jenna Harden, Savvas

Bring math to life with place-based learning! Discover how Math Walks create inclusive environments where students collaborate, share reasoning, and learn from diverse perspectives. Explore student-centered strategies that promote equitable participation, strengthen discourse, and help all learners build confidence and understanding.

K-12 Math Pact to Engage Students

Dr. Sarah Bush, University of Central Florida & McGraw Hill

Do you ever start to teach a mathematics concept and feel like you're staring at a sea of bewildered faces? What happens when you discover students previously learned a calculation trick or a mnemonic that has muddled their long-term understanding? When "rules" seem to change from year to year, teacher to teacher, or school to school, mathematics can seem like a disconnected mystery for students. Clear up the confusion through consistent language and notation, stop teaching "Rules that Expire," and use high-quality strategies that promote deep understanding through multiple representations and developing strong mathematical generalizations. We will explore each component of the Math Pact and you'll engage in meaningful tasks that bring these components to life.

Using the B1G-M to Strengthen Mathematics Instruction

Anthony Severson and Suzanne Fielder, FLDOE

Participants will explore the B.E.S.T. Instructional Guide for Mathematics (B1G-M) and use its components to support planning for student learning and instruction aligned to Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for Mathematics. Participants will examine how the B1G-M can be used to make intentional instructional planning decisions and support benchmarks-aligned, high-quality mathematics instruction.

Breakout Session #2 (1:00-1:45pm)

Bringing Algebra and Geometry to Life

Michelle Mikes, Hand2Mind

Explore how hands-on tools can support deeper understanding of high school mathematics. Participants will investigate geometric concepts such as cross-sections and volume, and the use of Algebra Tiles to model polynomials, quadratics, and systems of equations. Leave with practical strategies to make abstract concepts visible and meaningful for students.

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Math Nation: Differentiation, Remediation, and Support Tools

Crystal Emery

Explore Math Nation's tools and resources to support differentiation and remediation. Learn practical strategies for targeting student needs, assigning personalized support, and monitoring progress to improve student outcomes.

New Teacher Session

Jessica Plant and Jenna Yow

New to SJCSD? Drop by this informal session to connect with the curriculum team, ask questions, share experiences, or just say hello! There's no presentation—just a supportive space to check in, get clarity, and feel more confident as you navigate your first year. Whether you have specific questions or just want to listen in, we're here for you!

One Task, Many Possibilities: Leveraging Rich Tasks for Mathematical Thinking

Dr. Terrie Galanti, University of North Florida

In this interactive session, attendees will experience a rich mathematical task as learners and then shift to a teacher lens to examine its instructional possibilities. Together, we will consider how learning goals, student thinking, representations, and purposeful questions can shape what students learn from a task. Participants will explore connections to mathematics across Grades 6–12 and consider how teacher decisions can leverage a task's potential to promote reasoning and sensemaking.

Ready, Set, Solve! Inside the World of MathCounts

Ashley Finley, Savannah Britt, Miriam Amatangelo, and Emily McCullough

Join MathCounts co-chairs and current coaches as they share what makes MathCounts such a meaningful experience for students. Learn about the competition structure, what participation looks like, and practical tips for starting or growing a team. Whether you are new to MathCounts or looking to start a team, this session will provide information and inspiration to get started!

Slip or Sticking Point? Student Errors and Misconceptions

Amy Strickland and Dr. Kayla Sutcliffe, UF Lastinger Center for Learning

Teachers often wonder why a student can quickly fix one mistake yet confidently repeat another. This distinction between a simple error and a deeply rooted misconception shapes how teachers respond to student thinking and design meaningful Tier 1 instruction. Misinterpreting the difference can lead to missed opportunities for learning or unnecessary intervention.

Strengthening Mathematics Tasks Through Benchmarks-Aligned High-Quality Instruction

Anthony Severson and Suzanne Fielder, FLDOE

Participants will examine mathematical tasks through the lens of Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for Mathematics to determine how well tasks align to the intended benchmark and learning expectations. Participants will analyze and refine tasks to strengthen alignment and ensure that the mathematics students are expected to engage with reflects the benchmark. **Please bring a task that you have given to students or plan on giving to students.**

Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk: Bringing Mathematical Thinking to Life

Jenna Harden, Savvas

Bring math to life with place-based learning! Discover how Math Walks create inclusive environments where students collaborate, share reasoning, and learn from diverse perspectives. Explore student-centered strategies that promote equitable participation, strengthen discourse, and help all learners build confidence and understanding.

Tech Rundown

Dr. Maggie Byrns, Flagler College

This presentation will provide an overview of several powerful tools for teaching concepts such as algebra, geometry, statistics, and calculus, while also showcasing apps that simplify lesson planning, assessment, student engagement, organization, and classroom management. Participants will explore practical ways to integrate technology to enhance learning, save time, streamline workflows, and make teaching math more efficient and effective.

Breakout Session #3 (2:40-3:25pm)

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SJCSD ESE Program Specialist

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High School Math Competition Brainstorm

Jenna Yow

Join this collaborative brainstorming session to discuss the future of the High School Math Competition. Participants will share feedback, identify challenges, and explore potential changes to competition structure, participation, and logistics to better meet the needs of students and teachers.

Math Nation: Differentiation, Remediation, and Support Tools

Crystal Emery

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PLC Locations			
Course	Room	Course	Room
Algebra 1	230	Algebra 2	650
Algebra 1 Honors (HS)	235	Algebra 2 Honors	655
Geometry	240	MDFL (Honors & Standard)	660
Geometry Honors (HS)	245	MCA	665
Algebra 1 Honors (MS)	675	FACT	680
MCLA	690	AP Statistics	575
AP Calculus A&B	270	AP Pre-Calculus	635
Probability & Statistics	640	6 Standard	625
6 Accelerated	630	7 Standard	710
7 Accelerated	255	8th Grade Pre-Algebra	260
Geometry Honors (MS)	265		