

## # 449 Learning Partners

### Cathleen Malotka

#### ***What are Learning Partners?***

A partnership between middle school students and pre-service teachers.

#### ***Why Have Learning Partners?***

Desire for pre-service teachers to see actual student work and have a chance to ask questions of that student. Middle school students have an audience for their work and to have an opportunity to find out more about college.

#### ***Procedure***

- Mathematically rich problem is posed to both classes
- Only first names are used to protect both classes
- Students never meet or exchange contact information
- Papers are exchanged
- Students are only required to write once
- Comments are read before papers are exchanged

#### ***Where to find mathematically rich tasks***

- *VanDeWalle, John A., Karp, Karen S., Bay-Williams, Jennifer M. (2013) Elementary and Middle School Mathematics: Teaching Developmentally*
- *Keeley, Page, Tobey, Cheryl Rose (2011) Mathematics Formative Assessment*
- *Miller, Don, Musser, Gary L., Burger, William F., Peterson, Blake E. (2000) A Guide to Problem Solving: Mathematics for Elementary Teachers*
- *N.C.T.M. Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School journal*

### ***Benefits for Middle School Students***

- Interest in seeing how problem is solved by someone else
- Chance to ask questions about college and high school
- Enjoy having “ a college friend”

### ***Benefits for Pre-service teachers***

- Get to see actual student work
- Write questions to probe for understanding
- Consider next instructional step

### ***Unexpected results***

- Relationships formed over the course of a semester
- Middle school students reply honestly about issues important to them
- Insight into both groups of students
- Encouragement of writing skills

### ***Consider this...***

- Make sure the task is understood
- Task must have multiple ways to solve and be interesting to both student sets

### ***Contact information***

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