



Laurie's Notes



Laurie Boswell

I have always loved math—even when I was young. And yet, early in my career, I became frustrated with many of the instructional programs for teaching mathematics. In 1992, that frustration led me to accept an offer from Ron Larson to join him and Lee Stiff in writing a high school geometry program for D.C. Heath.

When Ron asked me to join him in implementing the NCTM Focal Points in a new middle school program, I jumped at the opportunity to make changes in the way middle school mathematics is taught and learned.

In *Laurie's Notes* in the three Teaching Editions, I describe my “hands on” philosophy for teaching mathematics. Foremost in this philosophy is my belief that students can *enjoy* and *understand* mathematics. The secret is to begin each new concept with engaging, visual, tactile activities that ask simple, but deep questions.

During the time I wrote *Laurie's Notes*, I was not just imagining what might help middle school students. I was actually teaching middle school students—one class each of grades 6, 7, and 8. In other words, the suggestions I put in the notes are not theoretical suggestions from a math education professor. They represent things that I actually use in class.

I love working with other teachers. One of my favorite things to do is to conduct workshops. If you are interested in setting up a workshop with me or with one of the math consultants at Big Ideas Learning, drop us a note. We will be delighted to customize a session that is tailored to your needs.