

High School Mathematics Department Highlights Fall, 2009

In the fall Dryden student mathematicians participate in the Corning Community College Math Challenge. This is a very challenging timed test. The top 5 scores are then submitted to the contest. Last school year (2008-2009) Dryden placed 2nd in our division and in the 2007 - 2008 school year we won our division.

In the spring of each year interested sophomores and juniors students participate in Ithaca College's Math Exploration Day. The students participate in a math contest or computer exploration, then mini-sessions exploring various exciting aspects of mathematics.

At the end of the 2009 school year, Dr. Dani Novak from Ithaca College presented a 1-hour program on the freeware computer program Geogebra to members of the Math Department and several students. Dr. Novak showed us how to use Geogebra to demonstrate both geometric and algebraic concepts within the Geogebra program, and how to export the information for class use. The program is an excellent tool for discovering and learning mathematics and is available as a free download at <http://www.geogebra.org/cms/>.



Dr. Novak consults with new Geogebra users.



Caleb Wakeman and Dr. Novak discussing Geogebra use.

GeoGebra is only one component of instructional technology that Dryden High School math teachers utilize. All teachers have document readers and overhead projectors to present and explain concepts, utilize online resources, and provide students with critical and timely feedback. Our students all have access to a graphing calculator in their math course as required by our state curriculum.

Math Regents highlights:

Geometry - The first Regents exam given in Geometry as part of the NYS Learning Standards for Mathematics was administered in June 2009. The pass rate of our students was bested by only one other school in the TST BOCES region. Nice work student geometers.

Math B - The Math B Regents exam is the second exam given under the prior NYS Learning Standards for Mathematics. The exam is a required exam for those students desiring a Regents Diploma with advanced designation. For the June 2009 exam, 90% of the students challenging the exam passed and 43% passed at the mastery level as designated by the New York State Education Department (NYSED).