

SDE Presenter Profile: **CATHERINE KUHNS**



CATHERINE KUHNS is a practicing classroom teacher with more than 20 years of teaching experience. Currently, she is in her second year of teaching in a gifted and high-achieving fourth grade. Cathy is a Teacher Mentor for new teachers and has supervised several student teachers. Her classroom is often visited by teachers from surrounding districts and states as well as local media, including the Miami ABC television affiliate. Her instruction is featured in her county's instructional video series used for teacher in-service training. In 2000, Cathy became a National Board-Certified teacher in Early Childhood. She has received several awards for her teaching including 2002 Country Hills Elementary School Teacher of the Year and was a 2003 finalist for Teacher of the Year in Broward School District, a district of over 14,000

teachers. She was also honored as Florida's Presidential Award Winner for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Elementary Teaching in 1998, an award that is given jointly by the White House and National Science Foundation. As a national educational consultant and trainer, Cathy works with teachers and administrators all across the country. She is a tremendous resource for ideas and strategies that help other educators successfully teach elementary mathematics. Participants in Cathy's workshops can expect a highly engaging, hands-on session.

Presenter Highlights:

- Popular educational consultant since 1989
- National Board-Certified Teacher in Early Childhood
- Country Hills Teacher of the Year, 2002
- Installed Broward Teachers Guild, recognizing Broward County's Most Outstanding Teacher, 1999
- Florida's Presidential Award Winner for Mathematics and Science Teaching-Elementary, 1998
- Published articles in National Council Teachers of Mathematics' (NCTM) *Teaching Children Mathematics* magazine
- Reviewer for Scott Foresman/Pearson Education Mathematics Basal, K, 1, 2 Grade series, 2002-2004
- Gifted Endorsed

Most Popular Presentations Include:

- Number Sense that Makes Sense to Children, Grades K-3
- "What's the Problem?" with Problem Solving, Grades K-3
- Picture This! Math You Can Draw the Singapore Way! Grades K-5
- Real World – Real KID Data Collection, Grades K-3 or 3-5
- Shape Up to Geometry, Grades K-3 or 3-5
- Write Like A Mathematician, Grades 1-3 or 3-5
- Math Play, Grades K-2
- A Multi-Cultural Look At Measurement, Grades 1-3
- Scientists Playground, Grades K-2
- Getting Kids To Think Algebraically, Grades 1-3

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- Mona Lisa's Gone to Pieces, Grades 3-5
- Is There Life Beyond the Basal? Problem Solving in Math, Grades 3-5

Resume:

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- 2002 M.Ed., Curriculum & Instruction, Elementary Education, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
- 1975 B.A., Elementary and Physical Education, Millikin University, Decatur, IL

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1992-present Teacher, Grades 1, 2, and Multiage, Country Hills Elementary School, Coral Springs, FL
- 2003-present Teacher, on-line courses for teacher recertification in mathematics
- 1988-1992 Teacher, Grades Pre-1st, 1 and 4, J.S. Hunt Elementary School, Coral Springs, FL
- 1977-1979 Teacher, Grade 3, Willowbrook Elementary School, Glenview-Northbrook, IL
- 1977-1980 Teacher, Grade 2, A.E. Stevenson Elementary School, Decatur, IL
- 1975-1976 Teacher, Grades 2, Warrensburg-Latham Elementary School, Warrensburg, IL

PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE (Workshops, Consultations)

- National Presenter, Staff Development for Educators, Peterborough, NH, 2001-present
- Educational presenter for schools, districts and conferences across the country, 1989-present
- Present "FCAT Fractions and Number Sense In-Service for Third, Fourth, Fifth Grade Teachers" Florida Atlantic University, Spring 2003
- Presenter for National Council Teachers of Mathematics Conferences 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
- Presenter at Florida Council Teachers of Mathematics Convention 1995-1997, 1999-2000, 2002, 2003
- Instructor at Summer Institute "Methods of Elementary Mathematics Education," Florida Atlantic University, 1992
- Creator of several Broward County Instructional Videos (featuring Cathy's teaching and classroom), 1988-present

PUBLICATIONS/MEDIA

- "Village of Round and Square Houses," *Teaching Children Mathematics*, National Council Teachers of Mathematics Magazine, November 2003
- "Geometry Town," *Teaching Children Mathematics*, National Council Teachers of Mathematics Magazine, September 2000
- "Half Time Day," (cover story), *Teaching Children Mathematics*, National Council Teachers of Mathematics Magazine, January 1998
- "Referee," *Teaching Children Mathematics* National Council Teachers of Mathematics Magazine, 1999-present
- Reviewer, Scott Foresman/ Pearson Education, Elementary Reading, new Mathematics Basal, kindergarten, first, and second grade series, 2002-2004
- Reviewer for MacMillan/McGraw-Hill, 1977 Basal and Activity-Based textbooks for First and Second Grades

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AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

- Finalist, Teacher of the Year, Broward County School District, 2002
- Teacher of the Year, Country Hills Elementary School, 2002
- National Board-Certified Teacher-Early Childhood, 2001
- Installed Broward County Teachers Guild, recognizing Broward County's Most Outstanding Teachers, 1999
- Florida's Presidential Award Winner for Mathematics and Science Teaching-Elementary, 1998
- Elementary Math Teacher of the Year, Broward County School District, 1996
- Teacher of the Year, J.S. Hunt Elementary School, 1993

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- National Council Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
- Florida Council Teachers of Mathematics (FCTM)
- Broward Math Cadre
- Broward County Review Committee for Florida State Mathematics Frameworks, 1994
- Broward County Textbook Adoption Committee, 1992-1993
- Cadre Member Florida's "Opening the Gates to Algebra" Teachers, K-12

Workshop Description(s):

Number Sense That Makes Sense To Children, Grades K-3

This presentation will include truly "kid friendly" activities designed to reinforce the crucial concept of number sense. Several powerful opportunities to investigate and explore patterns on the hundreds chart will also be addressed. There will be twists on familiar poetry and literature that will support student practice and development in this strand of mathematics. Cathy will also present cooperative group and individual activities along with discussion catalysts that can extend a great story or favorite poem. Open-ended assessments that provide insight into a child's understanding will be analyzed and discussed. The participants will leave with activities and open-ended assessments that are directly linked to your state standards. The specific standards for each activity will be included. You'll never look at a hundreds chart the same way again!

"What's the Problem?" with Problem Solving? Grades K-3

Problem-solving encourages children to be risk takers, to be focused, and to make sense of things. Successful kid-tested, teacher approved multi-strand problem-solving lessons will be introduced in this workshop. The emphasis of this workshop will be on lessons that can be solved and celebrated by a variety of abilities. Whole group and small group dynamics will be discussed. Cross-curricular connections to popular literature, holidays, and other academic areas will be featured.

Picture This! Math You Can Draw the Singapore Way! Grades K-5

Improve math skills with pictures! Based on the acclaimed Singapore Math method, this innovative session will introduce you to the step-by-step strategies of the model-drawing approach. You'll discover how to help your students make sense of math through simple drawings.

Real World – Real KID Data Collection, Grades K-3 or 3-5

Using well-known stories, poems, and every day items as springboards, participants will be presented concrete and pictorial data-collection lessons. Participants will have the opportunity to experience activities while observing firsthand how the five strands of mathematics can be blended into authentic learning. These lessons are designed to help students understand and interpret data while making predictions for larger samples. This workshop will also introduce opportunities for children to communicate mathematically by sharing and comparing. Student work samples and assessment samples will be available for discussion and observation. The participants will leave with activities and open-ended assessments that are directly linked to your state standards. The specific standards for each activity will be included.

Shape Up To Geometry, Grades K-3 or 3-5

This session features primary activities that highlight the beauty and real world application of this mathematical strand. Participants will take part in 2D and 3D geometry lessons using common household and classroom items. Cathy will provide literature connections in story and verse as well as cross-curricular activities. This workshop will discuss opportunities for connections to the other mathematical strand. The importance of communication using mathematical language and the opportunity for children to share and discuss will be highlighted. Student work samples and assessment samples will be available for discussion and observation. The participants will leave with activities and open-ended assessments that are directly linked to your state standards. The specific standards for each activity will be included.

Write Like A Mathematician, Grades 1-3 or 3-5

See a math problem from the child's point of view. Writing is the key! Now you can have your students speak and write mathematically to add a new dimension to your mathematics instruction. Plus, view student samples of children's math writings and learn how to incorporate successful, and simple, springboards into *math talk*.

Math Play, Grades K-2

Children make better sense of mathematic concepts when they are actively involved. This session features hands-on activities that provide practice, exploration, and fun! Turn math concepts into center activities. Best of all, each activity is linked to the National Mathematics Standards. Come prepared to move, manipulate, and have a great time!

A Multi-Cultural Look At Measurement, Grades 1-3

In this workshop, teachers will participate in a variety of measurement activities through literature connections, hands-on activities, and real world problem-solving. These activities will help children gain understanding of non-standard and standard measurement while gaining practice at estimation. This workshop will highlight activities that are multi-day, problem-based and connected to areas outside of mathematics. Writing opportunities for justifying answers and making predictions will also be addressed. The need for children to discuss and share their discoveries will be included. Student work samples and assessment samples will be available for discussion and observation. The participants will leave with activities and open-ended assessments that are directly linked to your state standards. The specific standards for each activity will be included.

Scientists Playground, Grades K-2

Learning is child's play when it comes to science. Cathy shows you how you can challenge each student by transforming the National Science Standards into fun and engaging activities using everyday household items. Science is presented in ways that allow children to see, hear, and touch each concept. Opportunities to make predictions, describe observations and uncover discoveries will celebrate each child's individual understanding

Getting Kids To Think Algebraically, Grades 1-3

Children use algebraic thinking before they even begin school! Do we do enough to continue that development? This important strand of mathematics is critical to creating well-rounded young mathematicians. Come see how jingles, clapping, cereal pieces, jelly beans, T-charts, and function boxes can get children to think, reason, and speak algebraically! Each activity links directly to the Algebra Standards as outlined by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Mona Lisa's Gone to Pieces! Grades 3-5

Let the masters help you create meaningful and enriching academic lessons. Imagine Di Vinci helping you teach scale and the golden rectangle, Van Gogh teaching angles, and Tchaikovsky teaching literature! With the classroom as your canvas, your students will learn math and social studies from the masters of music and art while developing an appreciation for their timeless work.

Is There Life Beyond the Basal? Problem Solving in Math, Grades 3-5

Absolutely! Get out of the rut of page after page, problem after problem in math class. Roll dice, draw cards, design cloaks, measure footsteps, study architecture and statues and plenty more. This session will give you a toolkit of lessons and activities to keep EVERYONE engaged, on task, and LEARNING!