### Differentiation

Meeting the Needs of All Learners Grades 6–8 Genni Steele April 25, 2009 NCTM Annual—Washington



## What is Differentiation?

Differentiation is instruction designed to meet differing learners' needs AND is a lens through which we can examine our teaching and our student's learning.



# We need to develop new skills and be more adept at:

- •Identifying the important mathematics
- •Assessing what students know and how they learn
- •Creating, designing and modifying tasks
- Providing the opportunity for student choice



### Focus Categories:

# Casting a Wider Net Scaffolding Learning Supporting Choice



# **Casting a Wider Net**



### **Transforming Tasks**

When we expand tasks to allow access we do not want to undermine the integrity of the mathematical challenge.



#### Number Story:

Sabina and Mike ran each day this week. Each day Sabina ran 3.5 miles in 28 minutes. Mike ran 6 miles in 63 minutes every day.

Here are the answers: 35, 2.5, 245, 7.35

What could be the questions?



If I were...

I would be...

I would be...

But I would not be...

Because that would be...



#### **Fraction Division**

•Pick 5 examples whose quotient is less than 2 and explain how you know

•Pick one of the problems and write 4 different fraction division problems with the same remainder.



# A family has 5 members. The mean age is 26.

# How old could the family members be?



### **Scaffolding Learning**

What can students do with support that they are not able to do on their own?



2009 Math Solutions





#### How are y=2x and y=x<sup>2</sup> the same? How are they different?

Alike	Different

#### Word Bank

Coefficient, rate of change, slope, linear, non-linear, y-intercept, quadratic, exponent, y-axis, x-axis





# How are tables, graphs, and equations alike and different?

Tables and Graphs		
Alike	Different	

Graphs and Equations		
Alike	Different	

Tables and Equations		
Alike	Different	



# **Supporting Choice**

- Partners
- •Work space
- •Tasks
- Demonstrate understanding



### **Choose your numbers**

There are \_\_\_\_\_cups of milk in the refrigerator.  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $3\frac{2}{3}$ ,  $2\frac{1}{4}$ 

It takes \_\_\_\_\_ of a cup to make frosting for one brownie recipe.  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{2}{3}$ 

How many batches of brownies can be frosted?



### **Choose your numbers**

The price of basketball shoes are \$\_\_\_\_\_

They are marked down \_\_\_\_\_%

What is the sale price?



### **Demonstrate Understanding**

### A Walking Race

Zoe walks at rate of 1 meter per second.Darnell's rate is 2.5 meters per second.

Design a race that Zoe will win, however, only by a little bit.





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