

Algebra Leadership Conference
Santa Clara County Office of Education
May 21, 2010

Discussion Questions

Video 1:

1. What does it mean in terms of mathematics for a high school graduate to be career ready?
2. What are the big ideas in teaching approaches at your grade level that could help prepare students for college and career readiness in this global economy?
3. Cathy Seeley discusses what students need to be successful in the 21st century. Do you agree with her list? Why or why not.
4. What factors contribute to student success in algebra?
5. What are some ways we can motivate students so they want to be engaged in mathematics?
6. What are the big ideas that students need to learn in the elementary/middle grades in order for them to be successful in algebra?

Video 2:

1. What lessons can we learn from the story of Crystal and her success in algebra?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having 8th grade students enroll in Algebra 1?
3. Explain how the US classroom differs from the Japanese classroom.
4. Why does Cathy Seeley refer to the Japanese classroom as “upside down teaching?”
5. What types of questions did Kelly ask her students? What questions do you ask your students to push their thinking?
6. What lesson might the Joshua Bell experiment offer to us as educators? How might our smarter students be disguised?