

## **Margaret Ponterella, Teacher**

I currently teach 7th grade Mathematics to two Honors classes and one regular ed class. I have also taught Common Core Algebra as well as Common Core 8th grade Mathematics. The idea of higher standards is correct. The curricula and their implementation are abysmal. The books are rife with errors. The material is developmentally inappropriate, especially for students who, as in NYC were previously taught using Everyday Math (and other pretty Common Core programs) meaning they have no skills, no knowledge of basics, and therefore no foundation. In addition, methods such as "letting the students teach themselves" (not kidding) and the idea that I am merely a facilitator are ludicrous and hobbling the students further. They can no longer answer questions independently. They need the support of their group. Unfortunately for them (and those of us who are judged by the students' scores) they take the be-all-and-end-all State Math test ALONE. Furthermore, your implementation (or roll out) has been nothing short of disastrous. If D Day had been implemented in the same manner, we'd all be speaking German. I have a novel idea for you: why don't you try asking REAL EDUCATORS (you know, those of us who have actually taught for more than 20 minutes and who have real degrees from real Universities) what works? We actually know.