

**Paul Swiatocha, Teacher, Mamaroneck Union Free School District**

"I am a 6th grade math teacher. I firmly believe in teaching students the WHY in addition to the HOW when learning mathematics. However, I have many concerns with the Common Core math standards:

- They force us to teach materials the students are not developmentally ready for. For example, much of the algebra unit is way above their heads.

- They force elementary school teachers to be experts in mathematics. Not all elementary school teachers have math backgrounds, and therefore, they do not understand why students are being presented with materials in certain ways. Therefore, the students do not understand why they are being presented the material either.

- They assume that students have mastered skills learned in previous years, and do not build in any time to review skills students have not mastered in 5th grade and before.

- They provide no guidance on how to differentiate, how to accommodate ELL learners, or how to accommodate students who are far behind in math skills, but are in your mainstream class."