

Mrs. Lisa Over  
9999 Florida Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
April 18, 2011

Mr. Anthony Jones  
Director  
Pittsburgh Public Schools, Board of Education  
1212 East Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Dear Mr. Jones:

As an algebra teacher at Edison Middle School, I have the privilege of working with many talented seventh and eighth grade algebra students. The needs of many of my gifted seventh graders are met by being a year ahead in their mathematics course work. They thrive within the standard curriculum, which emphasizes previously learned concepts with more depth. However, I have several talented seventh graders who continuously discern answers with incredible speed and accuracy. They can see relationships among topics, concepts, and ideas without the aid of many examples and practice problems.

These students have many questions that distract other students from their immediate need to understand and practice the content. They desire to delve deeper into the “how” and “why” of the math we are covering and would benefit from exploring each concept more fully before moving on to another concept.

To provide these students with what they need, I plan to use the pretest that I give before each unit to determine which students would benefit from enrichment activities related to that unit. There are several technological tools that I plan to implement whenever any of these students’ pretest scores indicate a need for enrichment.

#### RESOURCE DESCRIPTIONS, USES, BENEFITS, AND RESULTS

1. Geometer’s Sketchpad with *Discovering Algebra* and *Shape Makers* Activity Books

Geometer’s Sketchpad is a dynamic geometry program that will enable my students to manipulate mathematical diagrams to better visualize and explore advanced ideas and concepts. The *Discovering Algebra* activity book will enable them to investigate algebra at a deeper level and to connect abstract ideas with concrete experiences. The *Shape Makers* activity book will further enrich their mathematical thinking by introducing them to higher level mathematical thinking through geometric proof.

2. Membership to [www.mathforum.org](http://www.mathforum.org)

The Math Forum website is a subscription site that offers problems of the week and discussion forums where students can communicate and collaborate about ideas and solutions. This website will provide opportunities for my students to solve open-ended problems and to communicate and collaborate with other students. Gifted students often solve problems without being able to articulate the steps they followed to arrive at the correct answer, so the communication involved in solving the problems on this site will help to develop my students’ math communication skills.

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To implement the above plan, I will use existing classroom computers and Internet connections.

**RESOURCE COST**

<b>RESOURCE</b>	<b>COST</b>
The Geometer's Sketchpad® (up to 4 licenses)	\$69.95
Discovering Algebra: An Investigative Approach (Student Bundle with Workbook)	\$72.95
Discovering Algebra: An Investigative Approach (Teacher's Edition)	\$92.95
Shape Makers: Developing Geometric Reasoning in Middle School	\$49.95
Class membership to <a href="http://www.mathforum.org">www.mathforum.org</a> (up to 36 students)	\$149.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$434.80</b>

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at the phone number or email listed below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Over  
Math Teacher, Edison Middle School

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