

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR MATHEMATICS AND TEACHING, INC. and *MathLinks*: Core Grades 6 – 8 (2nd Edition)

The Center for Mathematics and Teaching (CMAT) is a non-profit educational group dedicated to igniting and nurturing passion in middle school students and teachers about the elegance and utility of mathematics.

At CMAT, we believe that all students have the ability and deserve the opportunity to learn the mathematics that will make them capable and confident problem solvers and put them on the pathway to college and career readiness.

The CMAT Leadership Team began its work in the Mathematics Department at UCLA in 1999, and officially incorporated in 2007, creating cognitively demanding and engaging materials that are accessible to all learners, and delivering content-driven professional development to teachers.

We are proud of our new and improved courses, *MathLinks*: Core Grades 6 – 8 (2nd Edition), launched in August 2023 and updated in 2025. These are some guiding principles that we believe make this program special.

- We aim to contribute to and support a joyful experience for both teachers and students as they explore mathematics. We see the social aspects of teaching and learning mathematics as critical. Some of the ways we do this are with:
 - ✓ opening problems that engage students and create a need to know; problems are frequently revisited, as needed, once students learn more concepts and skills, so they can explore further;
 - ✓ slide decks (with lesson notes for teacher support) that promote discussion as students develop concepts and solve problems; and
 - ✓ activity routines that add variety and interest to practice.
- We put concept development at the forefront of lesson design. We believe, and research confirms, that concept development, with hands-on approaches and visuals whenever appropriate, is critical to developing an understanding of mathematics.
- We focus on the big ideas of mathematics to help students see that mathematics is a cohesive and coherent, sensemaking body of knowledge. This approach is also efficient! For each course, we have clustered the skills and concepts of the Common Core Standards into big ideas (seven for each of 6th and 7th grades, and eight for 8th grade), and we make connections between them consistently. As a result, each course consists of about 30 multi-hour lessons that can be completed in about 100 class hours – leaving up to 80 class hours to meet the needs of students with review, intervention, enrichment, projects, tasks, and assessments – all included with the program.
- We believe that success on standardized tests results from the good implementation of a well-thought-out program, which includes a variety of problems and tasks. We include “rubric-worthy” problems and tasks in almost every unit of study, and we include a rubric-based activity routine to get students started on how to self-assess and peer-assess to improve their work.
- We recognize that the teacher is central to instruction. The *MathLinks* Teacher Edition and the Teacher Portal offer support for different levels of content expertise and alternatives for different teaching styles. Teachers are supported by a responsive customer service team. Authors and teacher leaders provide general instructional support, and more intensive, content and pedagogy based professional development can be arranged.

We are driven by our passion for teaching and learning mathematics, but nothing drives us more than the success of you and your students! We strive to create relationships and work together to improve mathematics success in your professional world. Thank you for trusting us with your latest math curriculum, *MathLinks*: Core (2nd Edition).


Shelley Kriegler
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