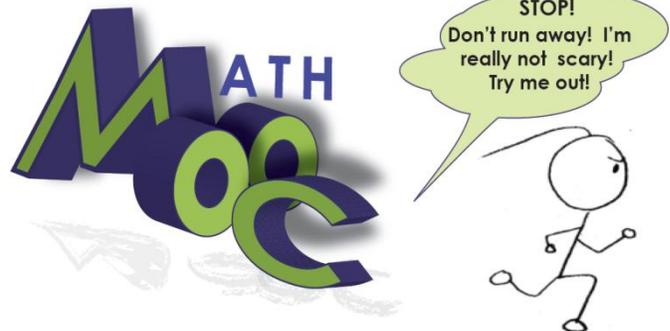


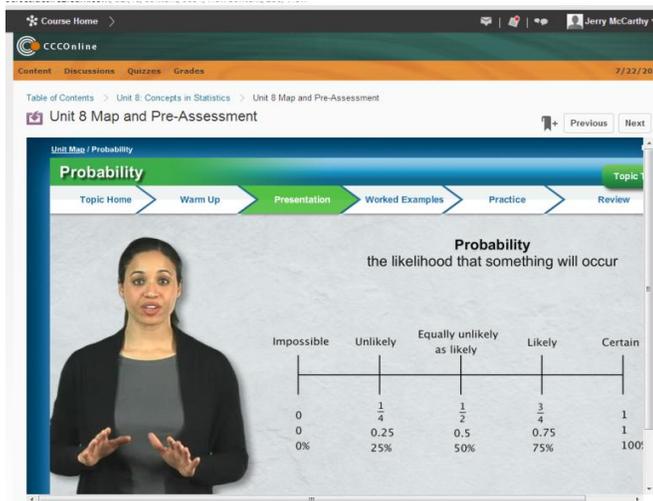
Community College System Pilots Pre-Algebra MOOC

Can a MOOC (MassiveOpen Online Course) help bridge the persistent high school to college math remediation problem? The Colorado Community College System piloted a Pre-Algebra Math MOOC this summer created by their CCCOnline Math Division to address that possibility. The MOOC is free, non-graded and non-credit, and will be open to all students. The initial Summer Pilot of the MOOC was limited to CCCS (Colorado Community College System) students.



The CCCOnline Math Department created the MOOC to provide students the opportunity to refresh their math skills in order to be successful in college level math, prepare for assessment exams, or take the opportunity to refresh math skills for fun. Over 100 students signed up for the 6 week pilot, many intending to refresh their math skills so that they could place into higher level math courses. One participating student commented: *“My last successful college math class was in 1985. I am here to brush up (read that: re-learn!) on my math skills.”*

The MOOC uses NROC (National Repository of Online Courses) content and includes a diagnostic assessment for each math topic, providing automatic, personalized study plans for students. Students can work through the lessons at their own pace and use only the lessons relevant to their educational goals. Math faculty members facilitate Q&A discussions for students with questions.



Initial review of student activity in the course showed high levels of participation and completion of lessons. User reports are positive. One student noted: *“It's nice to feel like you're actually accomplishing something or succeeding or even just learning something that you never ONCE in your life understood.”*

Starting in October, 2013, this MOOC will be available to any and all students who are interested. Depending on interest, CCCS is planning on offering this MOOC twice per semester as 5-week sessions.

This MOOC is the first free, online, statewide, authoritative high school math assistance program in the State of Colorado.

To visit The MOOC this fall, go to: <https://opencourses.desire2learn.com/d2l/custom/MOOC?ou=6634>

For more information, contact:

Terry Reeves, Dean of Academic Services at CCCOnline (terry.reeves@cccs.edu)

Or Erica Hastert, Associate Dean of Math at CCCOnline (Erica.hastert@cccs.edu)

Affordable and Fun DL: Mystery Skype

What would happen if you connected two classrooms anywhere in the world, didn't tell the students where the other classroom was, and tasked them, using only yes or no questions, to learn where that other room was? That is the premise of an engaging classroom distance learning activity called "Mystery Skype."

Toni Olivieri-Barton, a librarian at Woodmen-Roberts Elementary school in Academy School District 20 in Colorado Springs, presented on her school's Mystery Skype experience at this Summer's TIE Conference.



In a Mystery Skype call, one class calls another – anywhere in the world -- and then each class tries to determine where the other class is in the world. Each has a copied world map in front of them and designated students from each class ask Yes/No Questions to determine where the other class is located.

Participation is structured. Students are divided into groups and each given a different task. Some are Google Mappers, Fact (clue) Recorders, Photographers (to document our lesson), Greeters/Speakers, and Runners to keep everyone informed of the developments.

"The First Time you try it, it can make for a hectic 45minutes," Said Olivieri-Barton, "But it gets children really excited about learning Geography." Mystery Skype is not a new idea. Mystery Skypes have been active for a couple of years and there are connection assistance sites on the web for new partnering sites.

For more information, contact Toni Olivieri-Barton (toniobarton@gmail.com)

Or visit her blog at <http://toniobarton.wordpress.com/?s=mystery+skype>

Featured Link:

Amplify AP Computer Science MOOC for High Schools

<http://mooc.amplify.com/>



Amplify's **AP Computer Science** is a free, two-semester MOOC for anyone interested in learning programming. It is geared specifically toward high school Advanced Placement students who are serious about taking the AP Computer Science A Exam in Spring 2014.

The AP CS MOOC is the equivalent of an introductory college level class. It will teach Java and cover the AP Java Subset as defined by the College Board.

The MOOC is free, but offers an added option, called MOOC Local, which provides schools with students in the MOOC additional resources for \$200 per student. However, MOOC Local is free to schools for this first year. This is an important development because it may be the first HS MOOC to monetize its offering with localized value added service. Amplify is the K-12 education unit of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.