

James Madison University
Mathematics Education Colloquium

MathNerds—Not a Website, A Philosophy

Ted Mahavier
Lamar University

Thursday, December 1
4:00 pm
(Refreshments served at 3:40)

Room 208, Roop Hall

Abstract

When a student asks a question, we as educators are presented with a unique and enviable opportunity. For the few moments after the question is asked, we have one (and only one) opportunity to use that question to transform the student. A well-posed response or additional question has the potential to change the student's perspective not only about this problem, but about knowledge in general. We will discuss the philosophy behind MathNerds.com, a unique web site offering a free question-and-response service. We will also discuss a pilot project between the Harrisonburg City Schools, James Madison University, and MathNerds that attempts to use this philosophy to affect change in middle and high school education.