



Making Sense of Algebra: Developing Students' Mathematical Habits of Mind

E. Paul Goldenberg, June Mark, Jane M. Kang, Mary Fries, Cynthia J. Carter, Tracy Corder

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"This book has much to offer teachers of middle and high school algebra who wish to implement the Common Core Standards for all of their students."

-Hyman Bass, Samuel Eilenberg Distinguished University Professor of Mathematics & Mathematics Education, University of Michigan

"One of the joys of *Making Sense of Algebra* is how clearly and practically the 'how' question is answered."

-Steven Leinwand, American Institutes for Research, author of *Accessible Mathematics*

"Paul Goldenberg and his colleagues have done a fantastic job of connecting mathematical ideas to teaching those ideas."

-David Wees, New Visions for Public Schools, New York City

Every teacher wants to help students make sense of mathematics; but what if you could guide your students to *expect* mathematics to make sense? What if you could help them develop a deep understanding of the reasons behind its facts and methods?

In *Making Sense of Algebra*, the common misconception that algebra is simply a collection of rules to know and follow is debunked by delving into how we think about mathematics. This "habits of mind" approach is concerned not just with the results of mathematical thinking, but with how mathematically proficient students do that thinking. *Making Sense of Algebra* addresses developing this type of thinking in your students through:

- using well-chosen puzzles and investigations to promote perseverance and a willingness to explore
- seeking structure and looking for patterns that mathematicians anticipate finding-and using this to draw conclusions
- cultivating an approach to authentic problems that are rarely as tidy as what is found in textbooks
- allowing students to generate, validate, and critique their own and others' ideas without relying on an outside authority.

Through teaching tips, classroom vignettes, and detailed examples, *Making Sense of Algebra* shows how to focus your instruction on building these key habits of mind, while inviting students to experience the clarity and meaning of mathematics-perhaps for the first time.

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