



THE BELLAK APPROACH

A specially designed program to help build a strong foundation in mathematics and improve FCAT scores.



An Independent Teaching Company

Bellak Math Prep LLC

Experience & Expertise

www.bellakmathprep.com • bellakmathprep@tampabay.rr.com • (727) 645-6776

ADVANTAGES OF BELLAK MATH PREP

- ▶ Professional Experience & Expertise award-winning teacher - even this year's PCTM Middle School Math Teacher of the Year
- ▶ Flexible scheduling, to meet the needs of a busy community
- ▶ No cost for entrance exams
- ▶ Interactive teaching, not just lectures or going over assignments
- ▶ Focus entirely on mathematics and not other subjects
- ▶ Bellak Math Tips and Tricks" included (*Original short-cuts and helpful hints*)
- ▶ Goal-setting, an underlying benefit to the students
- ▶ Customized curriculum (not programmed learning)
- ▶ Problem-solving and test-taking strategies included
- ▶ Collegiate atmosphere



Mission

-To help area students gain a solid foundation in mathematics.

GOALS

My goal is to help more students learn the fundamentals of mathematics and Algebra. When a solid foundation is laid, students can build their mathematical expertise. But, without a proper foundation, they will always continue to struggle. I will begin with FCAT Prep because students need good scores in order to progress in school. Later, I can expand to Basic Math Prep, Algebra Prep, and any other discerned need. Hopefully, a result of this for students will be a higher level of self-confidence in math which then could help improve grades in school. An underlying goal is to help students set their own goals and think positively toward attaining them.

BELLAK MATH PREP PHILOSOPHY

- ▶ One of my professors at Capital University had a very detailed and linguistic approach to the teaching of mathematics. His teaching had a profound impact on me, to the extent that I have expanded on it in my own teaching and have also set up future scholarships to math education majors at Capital University in his name. This detailed approach sets me apart from other math teachers.
- ▶ The basis of my philosophy emphasizes the creation of a solid foundation on which to build mathematical knowledge. To this end, I have chosen to teach middle school instead of high school level courses. The most important courses are the Pre-Algebra and Algebra levels because all other mathematical expertise depends on this foundation. Attention to detail, shortcuts, and unique explanations have contributed to my students' high mathematical growth and success rates over the years.
- ▶ Through Bellak Math Prep, I will continue this dedication to showing these details and shortcuts. My students have named these helpful hints **Bellak Math Tips and Tricks**.

DO WE REALLY NEED HELP?

The scores on the 2008 Florida Math grade 8 FCAT demonstrate that we have our work cut out for us to improve student success in math. Level 3 (out of 5 levels) is considered passing, or on grade level. Basically, only 2 out of every 3 students in Florida passed the FCAT. So 1 out of every 3 students needs extra help. Here are some statistics on passing the FCAT:

Test Group	DDS*	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	% Pass
Florida	1910	14%	19%	35%	19%	13%	67%
Hillsborough	1911	14%	21%	34%	17%	14%	65%
Pinellas	1913	15%	18%	34%	18%	14%	67%
Pasco	1912	13%	19%	37%	20%	11%	68%

*The DSS (Developmental Scale Score) is, basically, the initial score to go by. Then the levels are assigned according to cut-offs on the DSS score.

Please note that if a student is level 2 in 7th grade and remains a level 2 in 8th grade, they have accomplished a year's growth in math, because each progressive grade level is tested on a higher standard than the

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previous year. So, for a student to improve his level on FCAT, They must grow 2 years worth of math in the one school year. They need to go over and above just getting by in class - or they will not improve. This is why I am offering Bellak Math Prep.

MEET THE TEACHER

Mrs. Sharon Bellak has been the **only** teacher in the Pasco County School System to coach teams for the **Math Counts** national competition, and so her teams competed against mostly private schools, math magnet schools, and academies in Hillsborough County,

- ▶ Florida Coach's Award
- ▶ 20 Year Involvement Award
- ▶ Tampa Chapter Coaching Award
- ▶ Coach of the Year
- ▶ Coach for the entire state of Florida
- ▶ Recipient of a Resolution of Commendation from the Florida Governor and State Cabinet

She has coached the Pasco County Algebra 1 team for 25 years, voluntarily, after school. They took 1st place 17 out of 25 years and placed at least 3rd for 23 of those years. In 2009 her team won by an overwhelming margin.

She has been called the Algebra Queen by administrators in Pasco County because of her love for teaching Math. She has a positive impact on the learning of her students. *"I am a hard-working, dedicated professional who has received recognition for expertise in teaching math":*

- ▶ **9 Times:** Who's Who Among America's Teachers
- ▶ Premier edition of the National Honor Roll for Teachers
- ▶ Manchester Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals
- ▶ Presidential Award nominee 5 times
- ▶ Disney Teacher Award Nominee
- ▶ Who's Who of American Women
- ▶ Professional Peer Reviewer
- ▶ School Board Pin Recipient
- ▶ Florida Associate Master Teacher
- ▶ Who's Who in the World
- ▶ Pasco County Middle School Math Teacher of the Year

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