

2009 Fall  
Conference

October 17<sup>th</sup>

Standards  
revised...

- New to the 2008 Mathematics Standard is the development of more comprehensive grade level documents.
- Close examination of the standard reveals a purposeful closure of topics rather than repeating the same performance objective from year to year.

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# “Discrete Math—It’s Not So Discreet”

## Our Opening Session Speaker: Valerie DeBellis

Dr. Valerie A. DeBellis is Director of **Discrete Teaching**, a consulting company that customizes professional development programs in mathematics and mathematics education for PreK-12 teachers and college professors through face-to-face and video-conferencing platforms. She has taught mathematics at the middle school, high school, community college, and university levels in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina and has provided professional development programs to teachers in ten different states (AZ, MA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VA).

More recently, she has designed and implemented a Masters Degree program (Leadership in Mathematics Education) for K-8 Mathematics Specialists in Virginia. The degree includes a focus on understanding topics in discrete mathematics and its connections to other mathematics topics throughout the K-8 curriculum. She has authored many articles in mathematics education and

most recently, co-authored three books: two books in NCTM’s Navigations Series on discrete mathematics (one for PreK-5 teachers, © 2009, and the other for Grades 6-12 teachers, © 2008), and a college math textbook for K-8 teachers on selected topics of discrete mathematics.

Val currently resides in Greenville, NC with her husband and two daughters, ages 5 and 9, where she is a homeschool teacher. This year, she will learn how to be a good fourth grade and first grade teacher! When she is not traveling or homeschooling, she can be found delivering children to community activities, teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade CCD, tutoring local students in mathematics, or taking get-away excursions with the family!

