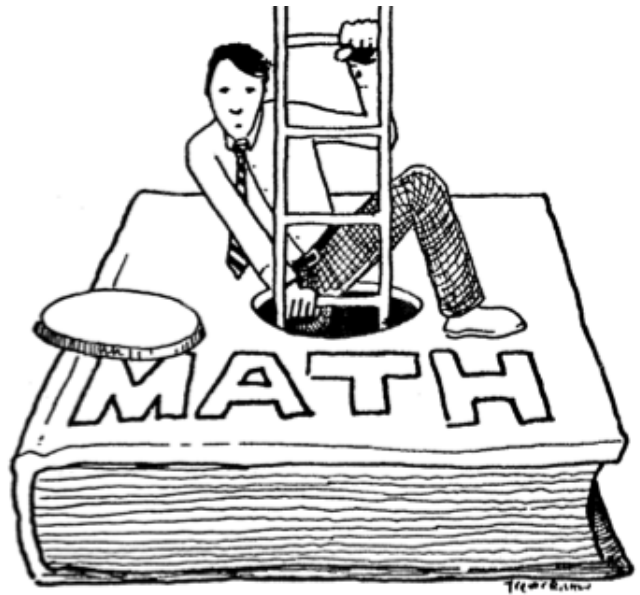


## ***Escape from the Textbook!***



Dear Colleague,

As middle school and high school math teachers, we find that almost every off-book activity we plan is well received by our students and leads to greater interest and motivation. Freeing ourselves from the constraints of set-in-stone curricula allows us to better respond to the realities of our classrooms, to better tackle situations such as heterogeneous classes, and to better implement cooperative and hands-on learning models.

However pressures of coverage, lack of time, and isolation from like-minded teachers can undermine our efforts. I would like to start a network to help us launch and nurture ongoing collaborations. Working with you, I am hoping to organize both online and in-person structures to facilitate staying in touch. We can help each other escape from the textbook, whether for a lesson, a unit, or an entire course.

I suggest we start sharing ideas and resources with quarterly meetings and some form of internet networking, leading up to an *Escape from the Textbook!* conference in February of 2011. If you are interested in participating in this project, and/or helping organize it, please e-mail me: <[Henri@MathEducationPage.org](mailto:Henri@MathEducationPage.org)>.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Henri Picciotto

PS: Please check out my Web site <[www.MathEducationPage.org](http://www.MathEducationPage.org)>.

*Escape from the Textbook!* is a project of the Center for Innovative Teaching at the Urban School of San Francisco.