

# SWUC ELEMENTARY MATH INSTITUTE

On July 16–18, around 100 educators participated in the SWUC Elementary Math Institute at North Dallas Adventist Academy. The focus was on creating a vision for mathematics within the context of the SWUC Education by Design Framework.

Dr. John Almarode, a bestselling author and an Associate Professor of Education at James Madison University, kicked off the Institute on day one. He laid the foundation for implementing what works best in the mathematics classroom. Dr. Almarode's engaging presentation style and wealth of knowledge kept educators' interest from PK to grade eight teachers.



A backwards design process framed the activities on days two and three. Educators dived deeper into three components of standards-based learning applied to mathematics: (1) Identify desired results—What do I want students to know and be able to do? (2) Determine assessment evidence—How do I check they have learned? (3) Plan learning experiences and instruction—Which learning activities will lead students to the desired results?

An 8 – Hour Challenge on days two and three further engaged the group as they worked to earn Wheel of Fortune spins by completing a variety of activities, from vocabulary games to collaborative projects. At the beginning of day two, educators were ushered into the meeting room through a cloud of smoke

while “Gonna Fly Now” blared. Subsequently, everyone joined in a song on their kazoos as they began the 8 – Hour Challenge.

Helvis Moody, SWUC Young Adult/Youth Ministries Director, set the tone each morning with an inspiring devotional. He challenged each educator to be the best they could be as they prepare learners for eternity.

The SWUC Office of Education is continuously focused on creating school cultures that are vision-driven and collaborative in nature, with integrated systems of curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

