

## Sharon Moore

“Come on down!”

Many of us know this famous catch phrase from the game show, *The Price Is Right*, hosted by Drew Carey. Students at Poolesville High School know it from participating in *The Price Is Right*, classroom version, where they are learning to prepare a budget, which is hosted by their teacher, Sharon Moore. For over 11 years, Ms. Moore has captivated her students in a variety of magnet and non-magnet school math courses such as Algebra I and 2, Business Math, Honors Geometry, and Honors Precalculus.

Says Poolesville senior Anna Mihn, “Ms. Moore goes out of her way to help us learn. If we are missing assignments, she’ll print grade sheets that list where we stand so we know what we still need to do. She is genuinely understanding and caring – doing way more than she needs to do to help us.” Ms. Moore smiles and shares, “I never say no to a student. My heart is in this school to make it the best it can be.”

Going above and beyond expectations is not unusual for Ms. Moore. On any given day, she can be found giving her lunch, planning period, and after-school time to work with struggling students who need to pass Geometry or students who need some extra help in her Honors Precalculus class. Ms. Moore even takes part of her summer to prepare dynamic curriculum and instructional experiences for incoming magnet mathematics students at Poolesville.

As she employs entertaining and educating strategies to engage and motivate her students, Ms. Moore sets the expectation that every student who comes into her classroom will achieve at the highest levels. These expectations when teaching Algebra 1 helped lead to the elimination of the achievement gap for under-represented students at Poolesville. Specifically, she and her mathematics colleagues worked diligently with African American students between 2003 and 2009 to help them progress from a 43 percent pass rate on Maryland’s Algebra High School Assessment (HSA) to a 94 percent pass rate. In 2009, this

achievement gap was totally eliminated when African American students actually surpassed the pass rate of all students on the Algebra HSA at Poolesville High School.

Linda Loomis, mathematics resource teacher at Poolesville High School, shares that Ms. Moore's "...greatest strength is her ability to connect with all kinds of students. She does a masterful job of working with our most challenged students in the Algebra 1 courses. She even coordinates with the English teacher to co-teach a College Test Prep course. As a result, she has seen tremendous improvement in the scores of her students, with many of them gaining 100 to 150 points on their SAT math scores. In collaboration with her English co-teacher, Sharon has helped students raise their overall scores by as much as 450 points."

Previously, Ms. Moore taught elementary and middle school mathematics at the Barnesville School and for Prince George's County Public Schools. She then left education to pursue a career as a computer programmer and independent technology trainer, re-establishing her teaching career at Poolesville High School in 2000.

Says Poolesville principal Deena Levine, "It was a sad day for private industry and a great day for public education when Sharon Moore decided that she wanted to re-commit to a career as a teacher. Her influence on students' lives is profound. She is invaluable as she educates our students who do not find mathematics their 'favorite subject.' Parents routinely write to me or tell me how appreciative they are that she has been their child's teacher. The Poolesville High School community views Ms. Moore as an exemplary teacher leader because she is a professional with impeccable character, has superb teaching skills that are focused on results, and is totally dedicated to all students."

"It is all about helping students build the belief that they can do it," concludes Ms. Moore. "To me, that is what makes teaching worthwhile – helping students. If you treat the kids the way you would want to be treated, they will treat you the same way back."