

# Curriculum Development

---

This material **will** give students a solid foundation in algebra without dealing with the traditional order of operations method known as PEMDAS. It *should* be taken (but not limited to) before or with the standard algebra curriculum: it will take the place of most chapters pertaining to (1) order of operations; (2) polynomial operations, and (3) solving all linear equations. After students learn the fundamentals of algebra using the bracket method, they will not have to focus on *how* to solve equations, but rather focus their attention on how to set them up! The simplifying and solving will be the easy part. Students going through this method will have the confidence to move forward in their algebra “careers”, and not be limited to algebra 1. Many of my students, after years of struggling, end up making math one of their favorite subjects. It is fun to see: I continue to start every one of my algebra classes (no matter what level), with a 4-8 week crash course on the bracket method. By the end of that unit, my students actually start to like math (even though they may not tell me), and most of them are truly solid at basic algebra skills!

If you, your department, your district, or anyone else is looking for a simpler, more effective way to learn the fundamentals of algebra (without the “dreaded PEMDAS”), please look this material over. As I noted on the web site, it really works! While I would recommend this system for every level (including honors), I highly recommend it for the following:

- (1) Special Education Classes
- (2) AIS/Resource Classes
- (3) Integrated Classes
- (4) ESL Classes
- (5) Homeschoolers
- (6) Tutor or Study Centers
- (7) If not constrained by standardized tests (ie. Not NY!), use this for all Pre-Algebra classes (8<sup>th</sup> grade, even 7<sup>th</sup>!)

I have had the privilege of seeing some wonderful kids have success using this material, and love teaching this method to others. If interested in putting this method in with your curriculum, or you just have a question or comment, please contact me.

Thanks for all you do,

Nick Badalato

(this is the address on the web page comments or questions tab: [nbadalato@kingstoncityschools.org](mailto:nbadalato@kingstoncityschools.org))