
About the Author

Alfred S. Posamentier is Professor of Mathematics Education and Dean of the School of Education of the City College of the City University of New York. He is the author and co-author of numerous mathematics books for teachers and secondary school students. As a guest lecturer, he favors topics that enrich the learning experience of youngsters, including mathematics problem solving and the introduction of uncommon topics that demonstrate the beauty of mathematics. Posamentier is also a frequent commentator in newspapers on topics relating to mathematics and its teaching. The development of this book reflects these penchants and grew out of his desire to bring some refreshing motivational ideas into the regular classroom instruction.

After completing his A.B. degree in mathematics at Hunter College of the City University of New York, he took a position as a teacher of mathematics at Theodore Roosevelt High School in the Bronx (New York), where he focused on improving the students' problem-solving skills and, at the same time, enriching their instruction far beyond what the traditional textbooks offered. Posamentier also developed the school's first mathematics teams (both at the junior and senior level). This endeavor resulted in the establishment of a special mathematics class designed to provide students with an opportunity to explore familiar topics from an unusual viewpoint and to study topics not a part of the secondary school curriculum yet eminently within the scope of an above-average high school student. He is involved in working with mathematics teachers, nationally and internationally, to help them maximize their effectiveness.

Immediately upon joining the faculty of the City College (after having received his masters' degree there), he began to develop in-service courses for secondary school mathematics teachers, including such special areas as recreational mathematics and problem solving in mathematics.

Posamentier received his Ph.D. from Fordham University (New York) in mathematics education and has since extended his reputation in mathematics education to Europe. He has been visiting professor at several European universities in Austria, England, Germany, and Poland, most recently at the University of Vienna and at the Technical University of Vienna. At the former, he was a Fulbright Professor in 1990.

In 1989, he was awarded as an Honorary Fellow at the South Bank University (London, England). In recognition of his outstanding teaching, the City College Alumni Association named him Educator of the Year in 1994 and had the day, May 1, 1994, named in his honor by the City Council President of New York City. In 1994, he was also awarded the Grand Medal of Honor from the Federal Republic of Austria, and, in 1999, upon approval of Parliament, the President of the Federal Republic of Austria awarded him the title of University Professor of Austria.

Now after 33 years on the faculty of the City College, Posamentier still seeks ways to make mathematics interesting to both teachers and students and sees this book as another medium to reach his objective.