



# **Introducing Gifted Students to the Wonders of Mathematics: Preparation for High School and Higher Mathematics, Grades 4-8**

*Francis T. Sganga*

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Suitable for use in Differentiated Mathematics Instruction, Preparation for Mathematics Competitions and Summer Mathematics Enrichment Programs at the Upper Elementary and Middle School Levels.

Discussions are based upon the author's extensive experience in teaching mathematics to gifted students.

Each chapter is followed by detailed questions (Memory Checks), and answers are found in the Appendix.

Includes 24 High-Interest Hands-On Activities. The chapters include challenging problems and explanations in Geometry and Algebra. Detailed Discussions and Problems are included in the Following Mathematical Areas (Examples): 1. MATHEMATICS IN ART AND NATURE-Rectangles, Angles, Golden Rectangle and Ratio. 2. GEOMETRIC CONSTRUCTION OF A GOLDEN RECTANGLE. 3. CONSTRUCTING A SPIRAL INSIDE A GOLDEN RECTANGLE. 4. USING GEOMETRY TO CREATE A SPIRAL. 5. A WORLD-FAMOUS NUMBER NAMED PHI. 6. THE PYTHAGOREAN THEOREM. 7. LEARNING ABOUT PERIMETERS, AREAS AND GEOMETRIC NUMBERS. 8. DERIVING THE FORMULA FOR FINDING THE AREAS OF PARALLELOGRAMS. 9. FINDING THE VOLUME OF A SPHERE PHYSICALLY AND MATHEMATICALLY. 10. RELATING ALGEBRA TO THE REAL WORLD. 11. ADDING AND SUBTRACTING SIGNED NUMBERS ON A SLIDE RULE. 12. CONSTRUCTING A "BINOMIAL SQUARE." 13. CONSTRUCTING A BINOMIAL CUBE. ABOUT THE AUTHOR -- Francis (Frank) Sganga received his B.S. and M.A. degrees at the University of Florida where, as a graduate student, he taught for two years. After working with the U.S. Corps of Engineers for two years, he succumbed to an urge to teach, and wound up spending six years teaching at the high school level. After three years, his superiors promoted him to the position of Mathematics Supervisor. In his supervisory role he spent a good deal of his time teaching gifted students at the middle school level, as well as conducting in-service workshops for their teachers. He never allowed his penchant for teaching to lie fallow.

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