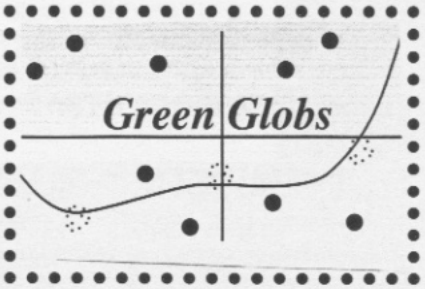
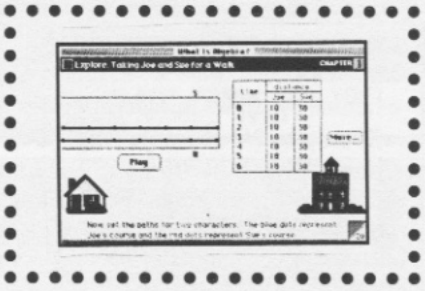
AND THE FINAL FOUR....

4. GREEN GLOBS & GRAPHING EQUATIONS *(APPLE II. DOS. MAC* - SUNBURST)*



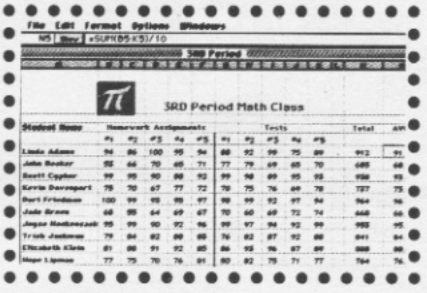
Another oldie, but goodie. In a class by itself. The Green Globs game is one of our favorites and has initiated many Great Green Globs Contests. This program has four parts. Part 1 is Equation Plotter in which you can plot most functions and analytic geometry relations on a grid. Part 2 is Linear and Quadratic Graphs in which you are tested on your recognition of standard linear and conic graphs. Part 3 is Green Globs, a game in which the more globs you can hit with equations, the higher the score. Part 4 is another game, but much less popular. And COMING IN DECEMBER - the MACINTOSH version! Contact Sunburst for more information.

3. ALGEBRA *(DOS & MACINTOSH - BRODERBUND)*



One of our teacher's favorites. Algebra is a complete first year algebra course comprising of ten chapters. Each new concept in a chapter is introduced in a tutorial section. Some of the pages are "hot" and offer some interactive explorations and practice problems. Very easy to use. Great for in-service sessions. Teachers immediately see its value in teaching the traditional Algebra curriculum. Broderbund also has an equivalent geometry program which has not caught on with our teachers. Why? Our teachers have a strong commitment to the Geometer's Sketchpad.

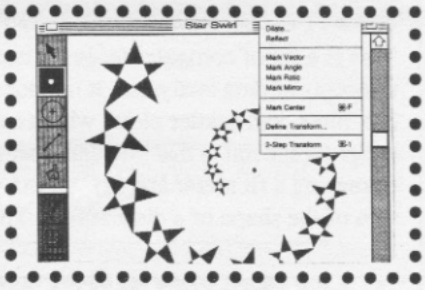
2. SPREADSHEETS - CLARISWORKS, MICROSOFT WORKS, AND THE CRUNCHER! *(MACINTOSH & WINDOWS)*



Spreadsheets have been a surprise hit in our project. Not only have the teachers been interested in learning to use them, but they have also developed many lessons that they have taught both at the middle and high school levels. In one sense, spreadsheets have become the "Geometer's Sketchpad" for the pre-algebra and algebra lesson development.

And, now, (drum roll, please) the number one piece of software is:

1. GEOMETERS SKETCHPAD (WINDOWS & MACINTOSH - KEY CURRICULUM PRESS)



No surprise that this is the favorite program. Our teachers can never get enough of it. Though there is the Cabri program (Texa Instruments) out there, no one here has broken their allegiance to the Sketchpad. With version 3 comes some algebraic tools. I'm anxious to see what teachers will do with these new tools.

OTHER POPULAR SOFTWARE WORTH MENTIONING

Math Blaster, Math Blaster Plus, Math Blaster Mystery, The Factory, How the West was One, Math Shop Series, Geometric Golfer, Math Connections: Algebra I

Despite the fact that the Blaster software is not on my personal favorite list, I do have to acknowledge their popularity with some of our teachers. They see these programs as a fun way to support their curriculum objectives which include mastery of computational skills and simple problem solving skills. Most of these same teachers do use the other programs as well. We have discovered that not all teachers are ready to jump in with both feet in using the more complicated programs. So these programs make it easier for them to get more comfortable with teaching with computers.