

# Preface

*T*his book is the third in a three-book series. To most effectively reach teachers' specific grade-level needs, I wrote the first book for grades K–2, with coauthor Rebeka Eston Salemi, and the second book for grades 3–5, with coauthor Jayne Bamford Lynch. When Math Solutions approached me to write a book for grades 6–8, I immediately contacted Karen Gartland. A valued colleague for many years, Karen is a seasoned teacher, tutor, math coach, and consultant who brings great enthusiasm to her work. There is significant overlap between the three books, though each is tailored to its particular grade span. The classroom vignettes differ, of course, as well as many of the teacher reflections and some of the teaching strategies and techniques. Sometimes particular stories and reflections were relevant across the grade levels and we made only those changes necessary for the intended audience. Sometimes middle school teachers were so positive about a previous example or reflection that they adapted it for this level.

Trends and buzzwords come and go in education, but the need for differentiated instruction is constant. Our students deserve to have their individual learning needs met in their classrooms. Throughout the book we suggest that teaching this way is a career-long goal, one part of our professional journey. We know that this is true for us, and we are eager to share our current thinking with you.

—LINDA DACEY