

THE NUMBER LINE

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www.lamath.org



LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION of
TEACHERS of MATHEMATICS

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Facebook page and
find out what is
happening with your
organization and
profession!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin 2014, I would like to wish our members tremendous personal satisfaction and outstanding professional growth. During this year, one of my goals is to help orient and acquaint our teachers with the power of the Common Core and to assist them in effectively implementing these standards in our schools with their students. Outlined below are some outstanding professional development opportunities for which LATM will be a sponsor or co-sponsor.



In April 2014, NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) will be in New Orleans for its annual meeting. This meeting is being held during the same week as Louisiana's state assessments for grades 3-8. Thus, NCTM and LATM Executive Council representatives have worked collaboratively to create an opportunity for teachers in Louisiana to be able to attend at least one day of the meeting to hear national, regional, and state presenters whose presentations will focus on topics related to the CCSS. As a result, NCTM has extended its Saturday offering from a half-day to a full-day program to accommodate our teachers' attendance at all grade levels (PreK-12). See the advertisement found later in this newsletter for additional details regarding the reduced Saturday-only registration fee.

LATM is providing an opportunity for LATM members to apply for a travel grant to defray the cost of attendance at the 2014 NCTM Annual Meeting. This travel grant opportunity is another way that LATM supports its membership. Specific details are outlined in an article in this newsletter.

A state-level opportunity for professional growth will be October 20-22, 2014, as LATM and LSTA (Louisiana Science Teachers Association) again hold a joint conference in Shreveport, Louisiana. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Tonya Evans** for agreeing to serve as joint conference co-chair along with **Jan Graff** from LSTA. Over the course of the next few months, the planning committee will be soliciting presenters, presiders, and volunteers to assist in making this event an outstanding success. We look forward to a very professionally empowering conference and need your participation, not only its planning but in its execution.

I look forward to receiving communications from dedicated mathematics teachers who want to take part in the planning of the joint conference and/or to become more active in the organization in other ways. To sustain a level of excellence, LATM needs members who want to be a part of a greater concept and are committed to creating wonderful experiences for their fellow mathematics educators.

I look forward to hearing from you and to having a wonderful year as I conclude my term as president.

Jeffrey Weaver

Jeffrey Weaver
LATM President



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IMPORTANT NEWS FOR MEMBERS

New LATM Officers!

For the first time in its history, LATM held officer elections via electronic voting. This was necessitated by the fact that LATM did not have a 2013 Fall Conference and instead promotes the attendance of its members at the NCTM Annual Meeting to be held in New Orleans from April 8-12, 2014. Newly elected officers are as follows:

President-elect **Maryanne Smith**
 Secretary **Sandra LeBouef**
 Parliamentarian **Stacey Magee**
 Vice President Middle School **Penny Gennuso**
 Vice President High School **Lori Fanning**

The LATM Executive Council appointed **Beth Smith** as Website Editor at its meeting on November 6, 2013.

Executive Council members continuing to serve in their current positions are:

President **Jeffrey Weaver**
 Vice President Elementary School.....**Amanda Bundrick**
 Vice President College **Vickie Flanders**
 NCTM Representative.....**Nell McAnelly**
 Treasurer **Ellen Daughtery**
 LATM Journal Editor..... **DesLey Plaisance**
 Membership Chair **Kathie Rose**
 LDE Representative **Mandy Boudwin**
 Newsletter Editor **Carolyn Sessions**
 Presidential Awards..... **Jean May-Brett**

LATM/LSTA 2014 Joint Conference Planning Underway

Mark your calendars! LATM and LSTA are teaming up once again to bring you a joint math/science conference. Dates are October 20-22, 2014. The event will be held at the Shreveport Convention Center. You will not want to miss it!

	LSTA	LATM
Conference Co-Chairs	Jan Graff jgraff@caddo.k12.la.us	Tonya Evans tevans@caddo.k12.la.us
Program Co-Chairs	Shavonne Price sprice@lincolnschools.org	Mandy Boudwin mandy.boudwin@la.gov
Exhibit Fundraising Chair	Jean May-Brett Jean.may-brett@la.gov	
Registration Co-Chairs	Shannon LaFont slafont@lafourche.k12.la.us	Kathie Rose kathierose@ymail.com
Hospitality Co-Chairs	Cathy Williamson cwilliamson0803@gmail.com	Amanda Bundrick ALBundrick@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ellen Daughtery edaugh1@lsu.edu	
Certificates/CLUs/Presiders	Laci Stokes ldstokes@caddo.k12.la.us	
Extended Sessions Co-Chairs	Donna Vishnefski dvishnefski@sciport.org	Maryanne Smith smith70471@yahoo.com
Publicity	Nathan Cotton nathancotten@tpsd.org	Carolyn Sessions carolyn.sessions@la.gov
	LSTA website	Beth Smith bethsmith1124@gmail.com
Evaluations	Suzan Rogers rogers340@netetc.com	

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TEACHER RECOGNITIONS

Donna Lamonte Named Louisiana's 2012 PAEMST Awardee

LATM extends congratulations to **Donna Lamonte**, Louisiana's 2012 Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Donna teaches first grade at LSU's University Laboratory School.

The annual state recognition luncheon was held at the Governor's Mansion on Tuesday, September 17, 2013. During the luncheon state 2013 mathematics finalists for the PAEMST, **Allison Brignac**, Lowery Middle School in Ascension Parish, and **Lerri Cockrell**, David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy in Lafayette Parish, were also honored. The awards committee also recognized the honorees' family members, colleagues, and administrators in attendance.



Donna Lamonte



Nominations for the 2014 PAEMST are now being accepted for math teachers from grades K-6. Use the nomination link at www.paemst.org to nominate teachers for this prestigious award. Individuals who are nominated will be notified by e-mail of their nomination; therefore, it is necessary that a working e-mail address be provided for each teacher nominated at the time of nomination. LATM members are encouraged to nominate outstanding elementary teachers of mathematics for this award. Teachers may self-nominate. For more information please contact jean.may-brett@la.gov.



Family, administrators, and colleagues are pictured with PAEMST honorees at the state recognition luncheon.

Starting with the frame on the left:

- 2013 Louisiana Finalist Allison Brignac with husband Jay Brignac
- 2012 Louisiana Awardee Donna Lamonte (right) with colleague Ellen Daughtery and husband Larry Lamonte
- Lafayette Superintendent Pat Cooper, 2013 Louisiana Finalist Lerri Cockrell, and Jeffrey Debetaz, principal of David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy

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2013-14 Recipients of QSM Math Grants

The QSM program provides grants of up to \$750 for the purchase of instructional materials for K-12 public school teachers who teach science and mathematics.

Allen		East Baton Rouge	
Jennifer Reichley	Elizabeth High	Alaina Wickboldt	Woodlawn High
Ascension		Evangeline	
Melanie Guillory	Spanish Lake Primary	Dawn Babineaux	Mamou Elementary
Assumption		Maranda Cormier	W. W. Stewart Elem.
Doreen Rivere	Labadieville Middle	Susan Godwin	Chataignier Elem.
Avoyelles		Lori Guillory	Mamou Elementary
Curtiss Lindsay	LA School Ag.Sciences	Melanie Guillory	Chataignier Elem.
Beauregard		Nicole Manuel	Mamou Elementary
Jennifer Beall	East Beauregard High	Candace Manuel	Mamou Elementary
Susan Blankenbaker	East Beauregard High	Rachel Nelson	W. W. Stewart Elem.
Bossier		Marie Soileau	Vidrine Elementary
Tanya Boggs	Benton Middle	Lisa Wedlock	Mamou Elementary
Michelle Carrigan	Benton Middle	Beth Veillon	Mamou Elementary
Amanda Eagle	Benton Middle	Jackson	
Marco Reyes	Bossier High	Kristin Bryan	Weston High
Caddo		Ashley Hines	Weston High
Mary Bissell	Fair Park High	Kimberly Shows	Weston High
Dianne Boogaerts	Ridgewood Middle	Jefferson	
Deandria Burris	Forest Hill Elementary	Lara Boyce	L. W. Higgins High
Rachel Corbell	Herndon Elementary	Ashley Gerfin	Riverdale High
Reginald Edwards	Turner Elem/Middle	Carla Harrison	Green Park Elem.
Lena Harris	Alexander Elementary	Jessica Harrison	Bridgedale Elementary
Princesses Hill	Summer Grove Elem.	Jasmine Melancon	Terrytown Elementary
Victoria Kennon	Fair Park High	Sarah Pendergast	Riverdale High
Chris McCurry	Summer Grove Elem.	Patricia Sumera	Thomas Jefferson Sr.
Susan McGowan	Caddo Middle Magnet	Lisa Valence	Patrick F. Taylor Acad.
Calcasieu		Jefferson Davis	
Stephanie Anderson	Pearl Watson Elem.	Tina M. Buller	Elton High
Denise Brashear	J.I. Watson Middle	Lafayette	
Serena Campbell	J.I. Watson Middle	Matthew Bleacher	Lafayette High
Wendy Davis	Prien Lake Elementary	Stacy Thibodeaux	Thibodeaux STEM Mag.
Lori Denison	J.I. Watson Middle	Lincoln	
Leslie Deshotel	J.I. Watson Middle	Alexis DeFreese	Glen View Elementary
Jennifer Fontenot	Henry Heights Elem	Kim Matson	Simsboro High
Brenda Garrett	Sam Houston High	Monroe City	
Lindse Hazlewood	J. I. Watson Middle	Elizabeth Smith	Neville High
Suanne Jacobs	Sam Houston High	Brittany Taraba	Cypress Point Elem.
Jennifer LaBruyere	J.I. Watson Middle	Orleans	
Selene Landry	Sam Houston High	Darren Eady	Ben Franklin High
Renee Martin	J.I. Watson Middle	Toni Jack	Ben Franklin Elem.
Amanda Mire	LeBleu Settlement		

Ouachita

Lauren Howe	Calhoun Middle
Jean Taraba	Swartz Upper Elem.
Darron Underwood	Ouachita High

Rapides

Ramona Barnhart	J. B. Nachman Elem.
Regina Greene	J. B. Nachman Elem.
Gaye Lynn Ortis	J. B. Nachman Elem.
Brenda Scoggin	J. B. Nachman Elem.
Karen Turrentine	J. B. Nachman Elem.
Sandra Wells	Glenmora High

Sabine

Jodi Cole	Florien High
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St. Charles

Michelle Adkins	Lakewood Elementary
Hettie Averite	Lakewood Elementary
Mindy Baudouin	Lakewood Elementary
Donna Bourgeois	Lakewood Elementary
Lauren Dailey	Lakewood Elementary
Lynesia Preyan	Lakewood Elementary
Wendy Rodrigue	Hahnville High

St. Landry

Betsie Fontenot	Eunice High
Rachel Smith	Eunice High
Rebecca Sonnier	Eunice High

St. Tammany

Karen Courtwright	Salmen High
Alan Jones	Pearl River High
Angela McGee	Honey Island Elem.
Stephanie Rousseau	Tchefuncte Middle
Diane Shay	Pearl River High

Tangipahoa

Catherine Legard	Loranger Middle
Melissa Maurer	Ponchatoula High
Michelle Miller	Ponchatoula High
Miesha M. Williams	Loranger Lewis Elem.

Terrebonne

Christy Barnes	Bourg Elementary
Kristi Dardar	Bourg Elementary
Ashley Ego	Houma Jr High
Christy Gregg	S.Terrebonne High
Julie Matherne	Bourg Elementary
Bonnie Soulet	Bourg Elementary

Union

Emily Littlefield	Downsville Charter
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Vermilion

Heather Doucet	Kaplan High
Christine Morrow	J.H. Williams

Vernon

Monica Aphonso	Anacoco Elementary
Angie Brack	Evans High
Tanya Jeane	Evans High
Julie Lack	Evans High
Deborah Lozano	Leesville Junior High
Veronica Lynn	Evans High

Webster

Melissa Garison	Webster Jr High
Vicki Martin	Webster Jr High

West Baton Rouge

Trudy Aguillard	Brusly Elementary
Brandon Hill	Port Allen High
Richarda W. Jones	Port Allen High
Robert Seals	Port Allen High
Tara West	Devall Middle

A Special THANK YOU to QSM Math Grant Readers

Karen Aguillard
 Luann Ballou
 Marilyn Bartlett-Jackson
 Mandy Boudwin
 Robyn Carlin
 Ellen Daugherty
 Fan Disher
 Patricia Edmiston
 Donna Fatheree
 Laketha Ferguson
 Penny Gennuso
 Gwen Huggins
 Kay Kussman
 Inkie Landry
 Diane Madden
 Ellen Marino
 Cat McKay
 Allie Pearson
 Terrie Poehl
 Roseanne Ramos
 Robyn Scalzo
 Jada Singleton
 Kathie Smart
 Beth Smith
 Carolyn Stewart
 Cindy Sullivan
 Tanya Sullivan
 Patricia Thibodeaux
 Dave Thomas
 Lynne Tullos
 Jeffrey Weaver
 Tara West
 Julia Williams

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS

2014 Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics Travel Grant Guidelines

LATM is awarding six travel grants for \$500 each to offset the expense of attending its 2014 NCTM National Conference in New Orleans, April 9-12. The money may be used to cover lodging, meals, parking, and/or travel. Registration will be provided in addition to the \$500. LATM Travel Grant recipients will be notified at least one month prior to the conference. The money will be awarded at the conclusion of the conference. Awardees must attend at least one full day of the conference.

Applications must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2014. The LATM Travel Grant Coordinator will select a committee of math leaders from throughout the state to score the applications. Order of receipt or geographic location will not be considered in the awarding of the travel grants.

Qualifications and regulations for grant eligibility are as follows:

1. Applicants must be LATM members who joined on or before August 1, 2013.
2. Awardees are expected to attend the full conference and take maximum advantage of the sessions. However, because of this year's state testing dates, we expect this year's grant recipients to attend at least one full day of sessions. NCTM will provide a full day of sessions each day and has it expanded its offerings to a full day on Saturday, April 12, 2014, specifically for Louisiana teachers, at a reduced registration cost. Visit <http://www.nctm.org/neworleansccssm/> for more details.
3. Awardees are expected to use information and skills gained at the conference to improve teaching skills and classroom instruction.
4. Awardees are not eligible to reapply for the travel grant until the 2016 Annual LATM or LATM/LSTA Joint Conferences.
5. Awardees that decline to attend the 2014 NCTM National Conference cannot apply the money to other conferences or transfer it to another individual.
6. Awardees who decline to attend the 2014 NCTM National Conference and who have not notified the LATM Awards Coordinator by March 15, 2014 are not eligible to reapply for the travel grant until the 2016 Annual LATM or Joint Conference.
7. LATM Officers, Board Members, or Travel Grant Committee Members are not eligible for the grant.
8. Awardees cannot submit expenses that will be paid by other funding sources.

Entry packets that do not meet the requirements will be disqualified.

Entries must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2014.

Send one (1) original and four (4) copies of the application packet (see next page) in one envelope to:

Beth Smith, 711 Comanche Trail, West Monroe, LA 71291

Questions can be e-mailed to Beth Smith bethsmith1124@gmail.com.



2014 LATM Travel Grant Award Application

Applicant Information

Name: _____
(Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.) (First) (Middle) (Last)

Position Title: _____

LATM Membership Address: _____
Street Address City State Zip

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ School Phone: _____

Name of Principal/Supervisor: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____
Street Address City State Zip

E-mail Address: _____ Alternate E-mail Address: _____

School Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Grade Level(s) Taught: _____ Subject(s) Taught: _____

How many annual LATM , LATM/LSTA Joint Conferences, and NCTM National or Regional Conferences have you attended in the last five years? _____

Are you presenting at the 2014 NCTM National Conference? _____

Answer the following questions on a separate page. Each responses should be one to two paragraphs in length. **Please type.**

1. Briefly describe how you view your position as a teacher of mathematics in Louisiana.
2. Briefly describe the value you see in attending the 2014 NCTM National Conference in New Orleans. Please identify specific information, skills, or contacts you seek at the conference, and indicate how they will be used and shared with your colleagues.

My signature indicates that I am receiving no duplicate funding for attending the 2014 NCTM National Conference.

Applicant's Signature _____

My signature indicates that I support this applicant and as an expression of partnership. My school or district will be responsible for covering the cost of any substitutes necessary for this faculty member to attend the 2014 NCTM National Conference.

Principal's Signature _____

Entry packets that do not meet the requirements will be disqualified.

Entries must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2014.

Send one (1) original and four (4) copies of the application packet in one envelope to:

Beth Smith, 711 Comanche Trail, West Monroe, LA 71291

Dr. Susan Hall to Speak at “Unmasking Their Potential”

Please join The Louisiana Center for Dyslexia & Related Learning Disorders on January 25, 2014 at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux for *Unmasking Their Potential, 2014*, a conference for parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and others interested in making a difference in the lives of students with dyslexia. Enjoy the presentation of keynote speaker, **Dr. Susan Hall**, and participate in a series of breakout sessions.

Dr. Hall is a consultant specializing in teacher training in reading and dyslexia. Hall has provided professional development for over a dozen state departments of education throughout the Reading First grant period, including overseeing the development of 2 years of training for the reading coaches and administrators in Reading First schools in Louisiana. Since its inception, Susan has served as one of approximately a dozen certified national trainers of Louisa Moat's Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS). Click [here](#) to download additional information, a copy of the agenda, exact location with directions, and the registration form. Onsite registration is \$75.

Write Now!

Have you created math activities involving Common Core? Are other teachers using your activities and ideas? Why not write an article sharing those ideas with teachers across the state and the country? The next issue of the *LATM Journal* is planned for release in October 2014. The review process takes a few months, so submit your article soon. Submission information can be found at <http://lamath.org/journal/LATMJournalSubmissionInformation.pdf>.



LATM JOURNAL

The *LATM Journal's* Editorial Board is always looking for guest columnists. You may have an opinion about a current mathematics education topic and would like to share that opinion with your fellow LATM members. Take a few minutes to check out the most recent LATM Journal and previous issues at <http://lamath.org/journal/index.htm>. If you have any questions or suggestions, contact the *LATM Journal* editor, Dr. DesLey V. Plaisance at desley.plaisance@nicholls.edu.

Episcopal High to Host AP Summer Institute

Session I: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 - Friday, June 20, 2014

Session II: Monday, June 23, 2014 - Thursday, June 26, 2014

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., breakfast served from 7:30 - 8:00 a.m.

Join our community of learners in Baton Rouge this summer as we explore the world of Advanced Placement. You'll get the insider's view of AP coursework and testing under the tutelage of College Board trained consultants. Episcopal High School will host as you explore the AP curriculum, multiple intelligences, and the use of technology. Registration is easy!

Dates: AP Summer Institute at Episcopal High School

Session 1: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 - Friday, June 20, 2014

Session 2: Monday, June 23, 2014 - Thursday, June 26, 2014

Registration: \$600 if you register on or before Friday, March 28, 2014. Between March 28 and May 15, 2014, the registration fee will be \$650. Get more information and register at <http://www.ehsbr.org/apsi>.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Carol Meyer Scholarship Award

LATM is pleased to honor the memory of Carol Meyer, an elementary school teacher who died unexpectedly at an early age. Carol loved mathematics and was a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She was an outstanding math teacher and a fervent worker on the LATM Executive Council. She was always generous in sharing her love of math with her students and fellow teachers.

In Carol's memory, the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics is pleased to award \$500.00 scholarships each year to two high school seniors who have expressed an interest in **pursuing a Bachelor's degree in elementary education, mathematics education, or mathematics at a Louisiana college or university**. It is our hope that another future outstanding mathematics teacher or mathematician will be helped along the way by this award. Please help us promote this scholarship by contacting high school seniors who meet the criteria. Follow this link for the 2014 application: <http://lamath.org/CarolMeyerScholarship.htm>

The completed application must be postmarked by Friday, March 14, 2014.

National Youth Science Camp

Each year, the governor of West Virginia issues an invitation to other states to initiate a process to select delegates to the National Youth Science Camp. Two outstanding graduating seniors from Louisiana will be selected to spend a month in the eastern mountains of West Virginia. All expenses are covered, allowing the selected delegates to attend regardless of their financial status.

Applicants should be candidates for graduation in the spring of 2014 who have demonstrated superior academic proficiency in mathematics and/or science and who intend to pursue a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics based career. Dates: June 27 – July 20. Applications must be submitted online by Friday, March 1, 2014. Students may apply at <http://apply.nysc.org>. For information contact Jean May-Brett, NYSC Program Coordinator, jean.may-brett@la.gov.

MathMovesU Middle School Scholarship

[Raytheon's](#) MathMovesU program is an initiative designed to engage middle school students in math and science through interactive learning programs, contests, live events, scholarships, and tutoring programs. The MathMovesU Middle School Scholarship awards **middle school students** \$1,000 scholarships to attend math and science summer camps and programs, or save the money for college. Application deadline: February 7, 2014

NCTM UPDATE

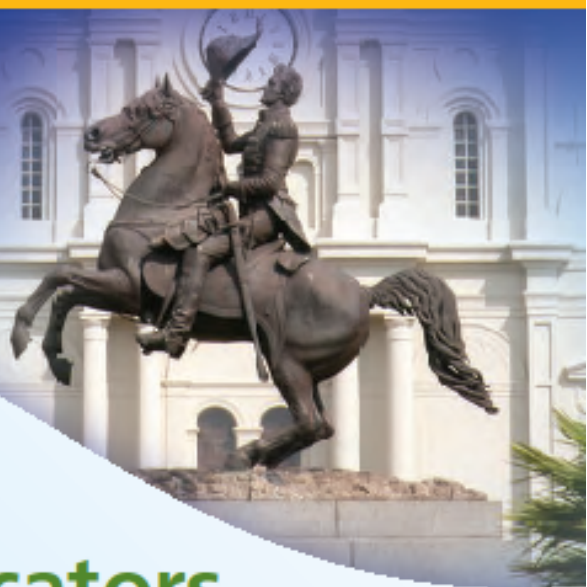
NCTM has recently issued several position papers which can be located at <http://www.nctm.org/about/content.aspx?id=6330>. These include the following:

Supporting the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics [August 2013]
Formative Assessment [July 2013]
Preparing Pre-K–12 Teachers of Statistics [April 2013]

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2014 NCTM ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

April 12 • New Orleans



Implementing CCSSM: Saturday for Louisiana Educators

Join the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) for a full day of professional development on Implementing the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM).

Registration includes all the Saturday sessions and workshops as well as the Exhibit Hall at the NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition—but that's not all. You'll also get a full afternoon of sessions and workshops targeting implementation and effective assessment of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics for pre-K through grade 12.

Working in collaboration with the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics, NCTM is offering special Common Core professional development opportunities to meet the needs of Louisiana pre-K through grade 12 teachers at the nation's premier math education event.

Afternoon sessions and workshops will target a variety of topics:

- Hands-on activities that model teaching and learning to bring the Common Core to life
- Engaging students in the key content from the Common Core
- Developing effective tasks for use in the classroom
- Integrating and implementing the mathematical practices
- Strategies for assessment, both formative and summative, and more.

Registration Rates:

NCTM Member: \$180
Nonmember: \$220

For more information visit www.nctm.org/neworleansCCSSM



The special Louisiana registration is listed as an “optional event” and is the THIRD step in the regular online registration process. Register today.

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VICE-PRESIDENTS' CIRCLE

Practice Makes Perfect

Amanda Bundrick
Vice-President for Elementary Schools

We've all heard the saying, "Practice makes perfect!" As teachers, we need to focus on the practice of constantly incorporating the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Some of these practices lend themselves to easier implementation in our lower grades. I have chosen two of the practices that I find extremely helpful to focus on all year in lower grades as we develop a more rigorous approach to math.

CCSS.MP1: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

The Common Core State Standards require students to develop various paths to single and multiple solutions of mathematical problems. As teachers, we should provide opportunities for students to struggle and think independently. Additionally, we must allow students to share their approaches to problems as there may be some new vantage points that that we haven't considered. Here are some tips for elementary teachers to assist in the implementation of this practice:

1. Use jigsaw puzzles. Go to your local dollar store, thrift store, or garage sales for cheap puzzles. Lower elementary teachers can incorporate puzzles with fewer pieces while upper elementary might use 250+ piece puzzles. Allow independent and team construction of the puzzles. Students must persevere through these new puzzles. Make it even more challenging by turning the pieces over so the students can't see the color or visual images.
2. Sudoku puzzles are great mind benders available in book form at your local dollar store. There are also Sudoku board games for younger students that don't focus on the numbers, but on colors. Free interactive Sudoku games that can be used with a SMARTBoard or other classroom technology are available at www.Funbrain.com and www.kidsmathgamesonline.com.
3. Don't forget logic puzzles! Students aren't given easy clues or a direct path to a solution so they must persevere through these incredible tasks. Print free puzzles at www.printable-puzzles.com or allow early finishers to utilize technology at www.mathplayground.com (multiple colorful and fun games from which to choose). Once students become experts at pre-made logic puzzles, they may begin creating their own for their peers to solve.

CCSS.MP3: Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

Students should be leading discussions and asking questions. As teachers, we must get away from leading the discussion and instead demonstrate to students how they can become the teacher with partners, within teams, or in a whole-group situation. Here are some tips to incorporate this practice in your elementary classroom:

1. Structure a partner discussion. Have shoulder or face partners check each other's work. Allow a pre-determined amount of time for each partner to discuss why something they reviewed was correct or incorrect. Remember, too, that students must learn how to correct each other without demeaning one another.
2. Create question starter models. Pull question starters from every level of Bloom's taxonomy and put them on small laminated sheets for students to keep at their desks or for use by teams as question starters when given discussion time.
3. Split the room with an imaginary line or a piece of duct tape. Pose a problem, give a solution (correct or incorrect), and have students move to one side of the room depending on whether they agree with the given solution or have another solution. Randomly choose students to offer reasoning for their choices.

These aren't brand new strategies or practices. This is just a refresher or reminder to all of us to be aware of the need for students to persevere and critique problems and possible solutions. Students must approach math in the way that scientists approach problems – with questions, testing, retesting, and reporting conclusions with justified research. Practice makes perfect so practice, practice, practice!

Fraction Multiplication: On the Grid

Sandra LeBouef

Outgoing Vice-President for Middle Schools

While looking for activities for a recent professional development session, I ran across a website I will certainly use again. The website is Teachers Pay Teachers, www.teacherspayteachers.com. Teachers Pay Teachers is the world's first and largest open marketplace for educators to buy, sell, and share their original resources. There is sometimes a minimal cost for the lesson plans, activities, or worksheets depending on those chosen, but there is a wealth of useful teacher resources for all grade levels. Some of the materials are free as well.

The following is an example of one activity that is included:

[Name That Equation](#) was submitted to the site by Dennis McDonald (digital download, \$3.50). The activity helps students build a stronger understanding of visual representations of fraction multiplication and comes with

- a graphic reference sheet
- 32 task cards
- answer sheet and key, and
- 2 two-page activity sheets (key included).

The graphic reference sheet shows how grids can be used to model how to find a fraction of a fraction. The 32 cards present students with different models of fraction multiplication. Each card requires the students to write a multiplication equation which is represented by the visual model.

The students can work on the tasks in pairs or small groups, completing all task cards in one session. A teacher could also elect to use the cards in centers, having each student complete 6-8 cards a day over the course of a week. Task cards could also be used as "problems of the day" by giving each student one sheet of 4 cards to glue in their journals and having them solve one sheet per day for eight days. The activity also comes with two different two-page worksheets which could be used as formative assessments. The timeframe required depends on how the teacher wants to use this activity.

This lesson also relates to the following Standards for Mathematical Practice in the Common Core Standards for Mathematics:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.

You will also find ratings by teachers who used the materials. Check out this website for other good teacher created ideas, lesson plans and activities.

Editor's Note: Teachers should use professional judgment in determining which activities are appropriate. Not all are of the same quality.

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Solving Geometry Problems: Floodlights Lesson

Penny Gennuso
Outgoing Vice-President for High Schools

The formative assessment classroom challenges found on www.map.mathshell.org are a great way to build conceptual understanding and engage students in non-routine problems that allow students to apply their mathematical knowledge. Additionally, the challenges help teachers to diagnose students' difficulties and inform and change instruction. Learners are motivated by showing what is valued and what they still need to learn. The problem solving lessons are designed to be used from time to time through the year. They help students connect all the math content they have learned, gaining deeper understanding of practical situations and rich problems in pure mathematics. The CCSS-aligned formative assessment lessons allow teachers to assess student performance while moving each student's reasoning forward.

The goals of the lesson, [Solving Geometry Problems: Floodlights](#), are making a mathematical model of a geometrical situation, drawing diagrams to assist in solving a problem, and identifying similar triangles. The lesson involves a variety of mathematical practices and standards: MP1, MP2, MP4, MP5, and MP7 and HSG-CO.

Before giving the pre-assessment, begin by checking that students understand how shadows are formed. The pre-lesson formative assessment task can be done in class or for homework before the lesson. This will give the teacher an opportunity to assess the kinds of difficulty and then target instruction to help students better engage in the task. The pre-assessment task is the same as the lesson task. Students are asked to draw a diagram to represent a situation in which a football player is standing between two floodlights forming two shadows falling in opposite directions. Allow approximately 5 minutes for answering questions before putting students into groups of two to three. The students are asked to rethink the solution of their pre-assessment and asked to improve on their work and diagrams. Students will find the total length of the shadows. They also determine what will happen if the football player moves toward one of the floodlights. The lesson is concluded with a whole class discussion where two to three groups share their general ideas for approaching the task. Finally, a collaborative analysis of sample student responses is held via a teacher-led discussion about the various approaches. During this discussion students are asked to identify the approach that was most difficult or easiest to understand.

The site <http://collegeready.gatesfoundation.org/Learning/MathDesignCollaborative> Has a number of resources, videos, student work samples, and professional development modules that can support teachers' work in implementing the formative assessment lessons. There are also sample course outlines that show how to situate this work in standard middle and high school math courses.



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AFFILIATE NEWS

Acadiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ACTM)

ACTM held a mini-conference on October 19, 2013, in Maxim Doucet Hall on the University of Louisiana-Lafayette campus. Approximately 200 participants were in attendance. The morning and afternoon sessions were focused on content with pedagogy focused on multiplication and division strategies. Below are snapshots from the conference.



Baton Rouge Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics (BRAC TM)

It is not too late to register for the upcoming EXTRAORDINARY EXPLORATIONS IN MATH AND LITERACY mini conference. It will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2014, from 8:00-4:00 at the LSU Lab School. We encourage attendees from around the state! There will be presentations on various mathematical topics from kindergarten to college and two award winning guest speakers. For more information please contact Trisha Fos at tfos1@lsu.edu.



Jerry Pallotta

Jerry brings nonfiction subjects to the field of elementary math. His math literacy books count from zero to zillions, in titles such as *Underwater Counting Even Numbers*, *Underwater Counting Odd Numbers*, *Count to a Million*, and *Icky Bug Numbers*. Jerry's *Math = Fun* series includes the operations of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, as well as fractions and measurement.

Brod Bagert

Brod is a poet from the City of New Orleans. He studied the classics in Latin and Greek, wrestled and boxed to vent adolescent angst, fell in love with and married his high-school sweetheart, practiced law, served in public office, and reared four children that are the joy of his life. Now he loves to entertain audience with his poetry traveling worldwide!



Northwest Louisiana Mathematics Association (NLMA)

The Northwest Louisiana Mathematics Association's Winter Conference is scheduled for Saturday, February 15, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon at LSU-Shreveport. On-site registration and conference events will begin in the University Center. The conference fee is \$7.00 and includes NLMA membership. This year's conference theme is *NLMA 2014: Getting to the Core*.

Conference forms may be downloaded at <http://www.caddo.k12.la.us/home> under the Announcement section. For questions or more information, e-mail Tonya Evans at tevans@caddo.k12.la.us

Louisiana Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (LCSM)

LCSM met on Friday, December 6, 2013. Officers elected are as follows:

- President: **Penny Gennuso**, Lafayette Parish Public Schools
- Vice President: **Sandra LeBouef**, Lafayette Parish Public Schools
- Secretary: **Sabrina Smith**, Jefferson Parish Public Schools
- NCTM Representative: **Desley Plaisance**, Nicholls State University
- Treasurer: **Jean Ware**, retired educator
- LATM Representative: **Vicky Hand**, Calcasieu Parish Public Schools

Mandy Boudwin, Louisiana Department of Education, shared general LDOE updates and an overview of new documents posted to the Teacher Toolbox. **Nell McAnelly**, Co-Director of the Cain Center for Scientific, Technological, Engineering and Mathematical Literacy, updated the membership on EngageNY's progress regarding development of Common Core curriculum materials. In the afternoon, **Carolyn Sessions** (LDOE) provided information about the relationship among the content of various documents produced by PARCC to assist teachers in understanding the PARCC's common assessments that will be implemented in school year 2014-15 in grades 3-8.

The National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM) will hold its annual conference April 7-9, 2014, in New Orleans, LA. The NCSM conference immediately precedes the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

Any mathematics coordinator, coach, supervisor, or other educators who provide mathematics leadership should consider joining LCSM. To receive membership information, please send contact information to Sabrina Smith, Secretary, at (Sabrina.Smith@jppss.k12.la.us).

SouthEast Area Teachers of Mathematics (SEATM)

SEATM recently held its Fall Math Workshop. **John Hornsby**, a local mathematician and author, shared "Math Goes to Hollywood" with the participants. Everyone was enlightened and entertained with a variety of video clips containing mathematical situations from both television and movies. Hornsby gave each person a DVD with all the clips and a reference sheet related to the videos. It is a great collection of math clips to share with students. Hornsby also shared strategies for using the clips in the classroom. **Stacey Magee**, LATM board member and St. Tammany Parish Math Curriculum Specialist, presented a session on developing effective questioning strategies. Teachers worked with several literacy strategies that help engage students in developing questions and using higher order thinking skills.

The SEATM board met in December to plan the Spring Math Fair which will be February 25, 2014. The board is working to schedule a date for the annual spring Teacher Recognition Dinner and to solicit nominations for the officer elections.

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LA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATES

Mandy Boudwin
Mathematics Program Coordinator

Information in this update

- [Sample Items Released for EOC Tests](#)
- [Updates to Louisiana Believes Website](#)
- [Professional Development Modules Released via Edmodo](#)

Sample Items Released for EOC Tests

[Sample test items](#) for EOC tests in Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, and U. S. History have been released and added to the Assessment Library.

Updates to the *Louisiana Believes* Website

The department has created two new libraries designed to support educators and parents as we work to implement new standards.

- The [Teacher Support Library](#) organizes the many available resources by grade level for grades K-5, and by content area for middle school and high school.
- The [Family Support Library](#) includes parent guides (in English and in Spanish), links to the content standards and practice tests, and early childhood standards.

Check the “What’s NEW?” section in the [Teacher Support Toolbox](#) frequently for additional updates.

Professional Development Modules Released via Edmodo

In October, the department conducted a series of webinars for teacher leaders and posted recordings of those webinars in Edmodo. Click [here](#) to join the Louisiana Teacher Leader group on Edmodo to access the recordings of the webinars. Webinar topics include:

- Integrating Math Practice Tests with Instruction
- Accelerating Middle School Mathematics
- Setting SLTs

Since November, the department has released a new Training Module each Monday. These training modules include an introduction to the topic followed by guidance through a task. They can be used by administrators and coaches to lead PD in schools and districts. Modules released thus far include:

- Understanding the Definition of Rigor in Mathematics
- Monitoring Students’ Progress and Adjusting SLTs
- Creating classroom assessments in math
- Using the Video Library Effectively

To access the webinar resources or training modules when logged into Edmodo, click on the *Folders* link on the left side of the page. This contains a Training Modules folder and a Webinar Resources folder. Additional Training Modules will continue to be released via Edmodo each Monday.

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The MDC Initiative Is Growing in Louisiana

Jean May-Brett
MSP and MDC Coordinator

A mid-year review of the Louisiana Math Design Collaborative (MDC) shows successful efforts in several components. Almost 50 days of professional development/coaching site visits have been held in the eight state-sponsored districts.

MDC teachers are working with each other to integrate Challenges and Tasks from the Math Assessment Project website, <http://map.mathshell.org>. Available to all math teachers, the website offers both Problem Solving and Concept Development lessons for middle and high school courses. The three levels of tasks (Novice, Apprentice and Expert) provide a wide range of items from which teachers may select. Also available for tasks are scoring rubrics and ungraded and graded samples of student work.

Part of the preparation for Louisiana's 2014-15 MDC efforts was put in place with the recent Training of Trainers workshops held in Bossier City and Baton Rouge. Teams from 13 districts participated in the multi-day training session given by Math Solutions coaches Lisa Bush and Michael Stevens.

Those trained for the role of MDC Coach will be able to work within their districts and serve as trainers and coaches for additional districts entering the MDC network next school year. A series of regional orientation meetings is taking place this month to provide representatives from interested districts the opportunity to hear from successful MDC systems.

Individual Integration Grant districts have used the opportunity to work with Math Solutions' coaches in a variety of ways. Recently **Meleah Gatlin** of Jefferson Parish arranged for a day long MDC professional development event. Included in the count of fifty educators who attended the training were the MDC-trained teachers accompanied by an administrator from their school.

Snapshots from MDC Professional Development Events



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Teachers' Technology Corner

Free Technology for Teachers

Richard Byrne is an educator whose award-winning blog, Free Technology for Teachers, provides reviews of apps (mostly free ones) that are appropriate for use in K-12 settings. Information in this article comes from that blog. Richard recommends [five Android](#) Apps and [five iPad](#) Apps for practicing elementary math skills. Because some apps are not available on both platforms, the lists are not identical.

[Desmos](#) is a new company that has created a fully functional, browser-based [graphing calculator](#). It is also available as an iPad App. The Desmos calculator graphs equations as they are typed and redraws them as equations are altered. This calculator also allows sharing and printing of equations and graphs if the user opens a free account. There is a good quick start guide at https://desmos.s3.amazonaws.com/desmos_quickstart.pdf that covers basic usage and some functions not normally available on typical graphing calculators.

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