



Central Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics CTCTM Newsletter Fall 2017



Hello CTCTM Members!

For educators, summer is always a season that seems to pass so quickly. Ideally, we would be able to spend our time resting our mind and body before returning to the classroom in August; however, I know that many of you spend much of the summer months studying, reading, and networking in the hopes of becoming an even better educator for your students. In order to be the best teacher, you recognize that you can never stop being a learner.

In my final year as President of CTCTM, I want to focus on building relationships amongst our CTCTM Membership. I hear often of teachers who feel alone in their quest to educate their students. Let me be clear when I say that CTCTM is a community of mathematics educators who are ready and willing to share ideas and resources with the goal of providing the best learning environment for our students. If you would like to get into contact with other educators in your content area, please don't hesitate to email me, and I will connect you with other members from districts all around Central Texas!

Please mark your calendar for the Fall CTCTM Meeting with the theme, Geometry and Measurement: This is not a Test! The meeting will be held on October 3, 2017, at Baylor University in the Marrs McLean Science Building room 101. The meeting will last from 5:00 – 6:30 PM. This year, the meeting will look a bit different. We will meet together for updates from Region 12 and TEA before separating into elementary and secondary focus groups for an hour-long session. This new format will allow us to delve deeper into our Geometry & Measurement activities and leave the meeting with a better understanding of how to implement the ideas in our classrooms.

I hope each of you has a great start to the 2017-2018 school year. If CTCTM can be of any assistance to you, please email us at ctctm.officers@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at the fall meeting on October 3rd!!



Kayla Brown
CTCTM President
2016-2018

Mark Your Calendar

CTCTM Fall Meeting: October 3, 2017, 5:00 – 6:30 PM
Baylor University, Marrs McLean Science (MMSCI) Room 101

TCTM Grant Applications Due: November 30, 2017

CTCTM 2018 Spring Conference: January 27, 2018
University High School, Waco, Texas

CTCTM Spring Conference Speaker Proposal Form

January 27, 2018



If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please provide the following information and email to Rachelle_Rogers@baylor.edu by December 4, 2017. Be sure to share with colleagues!

I. Presenter Information

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
School Name _____
Email _____

Additional speakers:

Name _____
School Name _____
Email _____

Name _____
School Name _____
Email _____

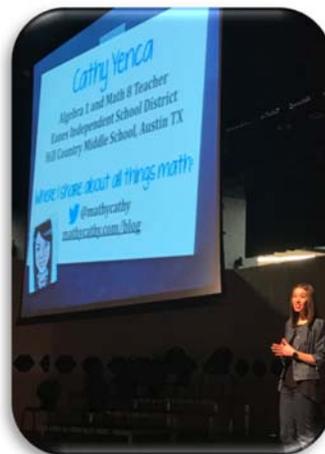
II. Presentation Information

Session Title _____

Grade Levels (Check all that apply)

PK-2 ___ 3-5 ___ 6-8 ___ 9-12 ___ College ___

Description (Limit 25 Words)



2017 Spring Conference

The 2017 Spring Conference was a great success! Keynote speaker Cathy Yenca shared many excellent instructional resources and ideas and focused on “Nixing the Tricks!”

In addition, participants enjoyed the many hands-on break-out sessions and pre-service teachers were able to benefit from hearing words of wisdom and networking with beginning teachers in the area.



Welcome Back to School!

My name is Debbie Strouse and I am your new VP for Elementary. I am starting my 9th year of teaching 3rd grade at Hewitt Elementary, specializing in teaching mathematics. One thing I remind myself of as we start a new year is to slow down. It is important that students have time to get their brains back in motion and to recall skills from the previous year. In Elementary, it is time well spent to review and continue to build a deep foundation in number sense before jumping ahead to more abstract skills. At the beginning of the year, I suggest getting out a 100 chart or a 10 frame, depending on your grade, and let the students play games to explore numbers. Also, let them use place value blocks or chips to compose and decompose numbers. Virtual manipulatives can be found at www.mathlearningcenter.org or in the App Store under Math Learning Center. I look forward to meeting you this year and sharing ideas.

Sincerely,
Debbie Strouse
CTCTM Elementary
Vice President
debbie.strouse@midwayisd.org

Time for Reflecting

As a new school year draws closer (by the time you read this the school year may have begun), I am forced to reflect on all of the highs and lows from the previous school year. If you know me, you know I have a terrible memory! I am constantly jotting things down on sticky notes or there is no way they will get done. Since I recognize this about myself, last year I decided to start a reflection binder (which also doubled as a lesson planner). I created a document that had the usual planning stuff (date, lesson topic, warm-up, activities, extensions, etc.). However, I also left room in the margin for my commentary and reflections. In the past, I have found myself preparing for a certain lesson and remembering there was *something* I wanted to change about the lesson or *something* that I felt the students struggled with, but I just could not remember! At the end of each day I wrote little blurbs to myself in the margins. This reflection could be as simple as the activity took too long or the students struggled solving a specific problem. Some reflections were about specific aspects of the lesson. For example, I included a reflection about using a simpler explanation that I wanted to ensure I taught using the simpler method in years to come. I am sure the commentary wouldn't make sense to anyone else, but as I started planning this summer I was able to go back and use these reflections to better my activities/ lessons and know which ones needed to be reused, which needed to be revised, and which needed to be redone completely. As teachers we continuously self-assess, but it is beneficial to write these reflections down. If you are like me you hope to remember, but usually forget the changes you wanted to make. Ensure that you also make positive reflections! It was encouraging to read my commentary this summer and remember the effectiveness of some lessons and students' successes. Maybe a binder is not the best reflection style for you, but I encourage you to find a way to purposefully reflect to improve your future lessons and your students' understanding!

Caitlyn Layman
CTCTM High School Vice-President

“I need a pencil!”

How many times have you heard this in class? Too many! Over time I think I have tried every trick: trading something of value for my pencil that the student would want back, selling pencils, attaching forks or flowers to my pencils, etc. Then one day last summer I was reading a blog, and there was the perfect solution! I cannot take any credit and have no idea where this idea originated, but it changed my life. It took away all the negativity that had been associated with no pencils.

Our students are all familiar with upgrades. They upgrade their phones, tablets, computers, laptops, etc., so why not upgrade their pencils? When a student needs a pencil, he says, “I need an upgrade!” Another student gives him a used pencil, and I present the giving student with a brand new pencil. Both students were upgraded. The giver has a brand new one, and the receiver has one, although it might be crummy. I have seen the same crummy pencil passed from student to student who all needed upgrades, and that is ok. The end result is the same. The giver receives a brand new pencil, and the receiver has a pencil now. However, I suggest there be a time limit to the first few minutes of class, so as not to take too much time.

To make upgrades more interesting, I offer mechanical pencils as upgrades. The students must tell me to whom they gave their pencils when getting an upgrade from me. It is amazing how the same names are mentioned day after day. But that is ok. Everyone is happy, including me! No more fussing!!

Jane Sykes
CTCTM Middle School Vice President

Math Jokes and Cartoons

Hello! My name is Rebekah Tate, and I am currently a Secondary Mathematics Education Intern in the School of Education at Baylor University. I am thrilled to represent preservice teachers this year for CTCTM!

Something I have found that adds a little laughter (and sometimes a few eye rolls) to the math classroom is starting off each class with a math joke, cartoon, or image! An easy way to incorporate it is to post it on the document camera or board as they walk in and then potentially discuss it once the bell rings. At least in my experience, after a couple days of doing this, the students looked forward to coming in and reading the new one for the day that I usually tried to pair with our lesson or day (such as Pi day)! (Trust me, the eye rolling and sighs will stop and they may even laugh with you on some occasions!) Beginning each class with discussing the math behind the cartoon or joke will spark their attention and get their brains in a math mindset! Calvin and Hobbes and Foxtrot comic strips both have hilarious connections to math, and I would suggest at least looking them up for your own enjoyment! It can even be an extra challenge for students to use what they are learning to create their own!

Good luck this upcoming school year! I hope you had time to work on your tans this summer...
 $\tan(0) = 0 \dots \tan(45) = 1 \dots \text{☺}$

Rebekah Tate
Vice President for Pre-Service Teachers

News from Your VP University Representative

Welcome back to school colleagues! I want to make sure you all know that my role with CTCTM has changed. For the past six years, I have served our organization as the newsletter editor and for the next two years, I will serve as your university vice-president. I am thrilled about my new role and look forward to supporting our membership in a different capacity.

I want to make sure everyone is aware of a wonderful opportunity to share an idea and be published! I encourage you to submit classroom stories, exemplar lessons, engaging activities, manuscripts, or mathematical puzzles to editor@txmathteachers.org. *Texas Mathematics Teacher* is the academic journal for the Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the publication of this journal has recently moved to our local area—Baylor University. Please share the wonderful things you do in your classroom!

I hope you all have a wonderful fall semester, and I look forward to seeing you all at the fall CTCTM meeting!

Kindly,
Rachelle Rogers

Member News and Happenings



Congratulations to our former CTCTM President Dr. Sandi Cooper!

Sandi is currently serving as President of the Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics. If you attended CAMT this summer, then you are a member of TCTM! If you did not attend CAMT this summer, then be sure to join TCTM at <http://tctmonline.org> and enjoy the wonderful member resources.



Thank you for your service CTCTM Past-President Dr. Trena Wilkerson!

Trena served three years on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Board of Directors and did an outstanding job representing teacher educators, teachers, and pre-service teachers. We are all grateful for your service!

Mathematics Teacher Academy

Several CTCTM members participated in the Mathematics Teacher Academy held at Baylor University, July 25-27. The Academy focused on algebraic thinking across grades 5-12.



Professional Mathematics Organization Scholarship

Central Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics (CTCTM) Professional Mathematics Organization Scholarship

This scholarship will award a one-year membership to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), a one-year membership to the Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics (TCTM), and a one-year membership to the Central Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics (CTCTM).

Deadline: January 13, 2018

Eligibility: Any student attending a Texas college or university and who plans on student teaching during 2018-2019 in order to pursue teacher certification with a specialization or teaching field in mathematics or any teacher who has taught for fewer than two years and who is not a member of TCTM or NCTM. The applicant must either have permanent residence in one of the counties served by Region 12 in Central Texas or attend a college/university located in counties served by Region 12 in Central Texas.

Applicant Information-All information must be completed for consideration.

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Number & Street

City State Zip Code

Contact: () _____ () _____
Home Phone Work Phone Email Address

College/Campus Information

College/Campus Name _____ Graduation Year _____

Teaching Certification: _____ Years Taught: _____

Campus/School District: _____

You must submit the following electronically by **January 13, 2018** to Kayla.Brown@midwayisd.org, President of CTCTM:

1. Completed application.
2. An essay of 500-1500 words that describes how membership in a professional mathematics organization will help you as a teacher of mathematics.

Questions may also be sent to the same e-mail address. Information concerning this scholarship can also be found at www.ctctm.org. Click on Resources and Centers and then the Central Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics link. An appointed CTCTM committee will review applications. Recipient's name will be submitted to the CTCTM Executive Board who will then notify the recipient and post name to CTCTM website.

Central Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics
CTCTM Membership / Information Form

All information provided is confidential and not available to outside sources without the express written permission of the CTCTM Executive Council.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of School _____ Your Position _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Work Phone (_____) _____

Preferred Email _____

Are you a member of NCTM? (Circle) yes no Are you a member of TCTM? (Circle) yes no

Please join or renew your membership to NCTM online (www.nctm.org), using the pull-down menu to indicate that you are a member of CTCTM. NCTM gives CTCTM a small portion (\$3 - \$5) of your membership, which really helps us.

Please check one of the following:

School Type: _____ Public
 _____ Nonpublic

Check those that best describe your level of involvement:

_____ Teacher _____ P-2
_____ Student _____ 3-5
_____ Counselor _____ 6-8
_____ Principal _____ 9-12
_____ Supervisor _____ University
_____ Other: _____

Annual Dues:

Regular Membership \$15.00

Student Membership \$5.00

Make check payable to **CTCTM**.

Mail to:

Patricia Bahnsen

Baylor University

One Bear Place #97328

Waco, TX 76798

ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

Date Entered/Renewed _____ Amount Paid _____

Membership Expiration _____ Acknowledgment Sent _____

.....
Members: Has your membership information changed?
Contact Patricia Bahnsen at Patricia_Bahnsen@Baylor.edu to update your information.
.....

2017-2018 Officers

<p>President Kayla Brown Midway ISD Kayla.Brown@midwayisd.org</p>		<p>President-Elect Arash Abnoussi Region 12 ESC aabnoussi@esc12.net</p>
<p>Treasurer Cheryl McDuff China Spring ISD Cherylmcduff1@gmail.com</p>	<p>Secretary Ebony Cousins Waco ISD Ebony.Cousins@wacoisd.org</p>	<p>Vice President - Pre-Service Teachers Rebekah Tate Baylor University Rebekah_Tate@baylor.edu</p>
<p>Vice President - Elementary Debbie Strouse Midway ISD Debbie.Strouse@midwayisd.org</p>	<p>Vice President - Junior High Jane Sykes Waco ISD Jane.Sykes@wacoisd.org</p>	<p>Vice President - High School Caitlyn Layman Waco ISD Caitlyn.Layman@wacoisd.org</p>
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<p>NCTM Representative Becky Hahne Robinson ISD bhahne@robinson.k12.tx.us</p>		<p>Community Relations Representative Lorri Sapp Midway ISD Lorri.Sapp@midwayisd.org</p>

CTCTM

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