



# Central Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics CTCTM Newsletter Spring 2019



## Message from the President, Arash Abnousi



Greetings!

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through this academic year!

While looking back at those past months, we have had a few highlights worthy to share. Our Fall Meeting was a great success! We had a fantastic turnout at this meeting, even on that rainy evening of October 16th, despite the weather warnings. This was just another testament to the dedication of our Central Texas educators. On that note, thank you to all those who participated, and presented at this event. Furthermore, the late October announcement of the NCTM President election's results absolutely thrilled us to now have our very own Dr. Trena Wilkerson, Professor of Mathematics from Baylor University, as the president-elect! Dr. Wilkerson will lead this very prestigious national Math organization for the next two years. Congratulations to Dr. Wilkerson!

Looking ahead, the excitement is all about our upcoming February 2nd Spring Conference. Similar to previous years, the conference will be held at University High School. We are planning some great breakout sessions for participants, as well as a display of several vendors and plenty of door prizes. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Hiroko Warshauer, Professor of Mathematics at Texas State University. We look forward to hearing Dr. Warshauer share her expertise on the topic of "Responsive Teaching to Support Productive Struggle." Dr. Warshauer's talk will address how teachers can recognize and support students at all levels in productive struggle to deepen their conceptual understanding of mathematics.

Please see additional information about the conference on the next page of this newsletter and be sure to register to attend at <https://ctctm.weebly.com/>.

On behalf of our Executive Council, I thank you all for your continuous support of this organization.

# Officer Position Elections

As a member of CTCTM, we want to encourage you to become more involved in this organization. There are opportunities to serve on committees and/or to serve as an appointed or elected position on the Executive Council. Please consider nominating colleagues or yourself for these important positions. Also, if you are interested or have questions, you may contact Arash Abnoussi at [aabnoussi@esc12.net](mailto:aabnoussi@esc12.net).

Elected officer positions available are:

President-Elect  
Community Relations  
Secretary

Vice President for Middle School  
Vice President for University  
Newsletter/Website Editor

Nominations are being accepted now until **January 15**.

Self-nominations are accepted. Details of term and responsibilities can be found in our constitution posted on our website, <https://ctctm.weebly.com/>.

## Mark Your Calendar

### CTCTM 2019 Spring Conference

February 2, 2019

University High School

Waco, Texas

Breakfast	7:45 – 8:15
Opening Meeting	8:15 – 8:30
Keynote Speaker: <b>Dr. Hiroko Warshauer</b> Keynote: Responsive Teaching to Support Productive Struggle	8:30 – 9:30
Break-Out Sessions and Scheduled Time to visit Vendors	
Pre-Service Teacher Luncheon	1:00 – 2:00



### ARE YOU A PRESERVICE TEACHER?

Join us for the PreService Teacher Luncheon.  
Sign up when you register for the conference.

# The 2018 Fall Meeting

The 2018 Fall Meeting was a hit! Participants enjoyed grade-level break-out sessions focused on engaging students in mathematics. Thank you to our speakers!



## From the UPs

### Legos

They have peeked my interest for years. I finally bit the bullet and wrote a grant to get started using them in math. I started using a product called "The Brick Math Series" last year by Dr. Shirley Dissler. It has been impactful with student learning. Engagement is always the key to improve success in student learning. Students love working with Legos. They are a familiar item that they see at home and on TV. This curriculum has been easy for me to implement. They have you tube videos that model step by step learning. They also have a very easy to follow book with step by step lessons. My favorite part is the Lego kits that they sell. They have exactly the Legos needed to implement this program. However, you could get started for free if you have Legos in your classroom and are able to watch the you tube videos. So far we have used Legos for multiplication, division, perimeter and area. I am excited to use them to introduce equivalent fractions this year. If you have any questions about using Legos in math, please email me at [debbie.strouse@midwayisd.org](mailto:debbie.strouse@midwayisd.org).

Debbie Strouse, Vice President – Elementary

## **No, We are Not All the Same**

The second semester of the school year is the one with the STAAR test on our minds. Although I try not to say that word (STAAR) out loud, it is always in the air. Most schools have some sort of review during the test. My school calls it the STAAR Blitz. Certain TEKS are selected to be practiced during the Blitz with everyone practicing the same one at the same time. But I choose to do my Blitz differently. With careful data analysis, I know which TEKS are strengths and weaknesses for each of my students. The students use a data recording sheet I created where they track their progress on each skill. When the Blitz begins, the students know which skills they should practice more and which ones they perform satisfactorily already. I have created a file for each skill, both readiness and supporting. The students show me their data recording sheet, and together, we select the work for them. I am available for checking, reteaching, and tutoring. When the skill is completed and evaluated, the student chooses the next one.

I monitor the students to make sure they are progressing. There are expectations for progress. You are probably thinking that all we are doing are worksheets. You are somewhat correct, but the questions are combinations of multiple-choice, open-ended, and griddable free response. For my students who are all ready for STAAR, I have independent activities and higher-level thinking questions for them that are still based on their lowest performing TEKS.

What I like about this process is that everyone is working on their independent level on the skill they need to improve. No one knows or cares what the other person is doing. Why should someone do an activity that is not needed just because someone else needs it? No, we are not all the same.

Jane Sykes, Vice President – Middle School

## **Greetings from Your VP for Pre-Service Teachers**

Greetings fellow CTCTM members! During my time in the classroom as a preservice teacher, I have found the mindset of students who are content with their academic understanding and achievement level very intriguing. These students are satisfied with the knowledge of the content they possess, and do not see a reason to try and advance their comprehension of the topics being taught to them. I was curious to explore how accountable, competitive goal setting in the classroom environment might impact these students.

With the help of my mentor teacher, I implemented a public forum in the classroom where every student posted their individual, short-term goal related to the class. The students continuously updated their goals after achieving the previous one on a new colored paper, which allowed all of the students to compare where they were in their goal achievement process to their peers. I found through this entire process how beneficial goal setting in the classroom is for students. It gives students the opportunity to identify their weaknesses in the subject they're learning, and then find different ways to improve upon these weaknesses in order to achieve success.

Goal setting is fundamental to the long-term success of any student, and implementing this practice into the classroom gives students a chance to motivate themselves towards improving their content knowledge. As Earl Nightingale once said, "People with goals succeed because they know where they're going."

Lindsey Carpenter, Vice President – Pre-Service Teachers

## Google Forms

Google Forms is my new grading BFF, as well as an excellent form of formative assessment in my classroom. I have used Google Forms in conjunction with task cards, escape rooms, and quizzes and the best part is it will grade it for you! Another plus about using a Google Form for these activities (besides the grading) is that you can analyze the data quickly because the form summarizes the results, so you can easily identify frequently missed problems.

For formative assessment, (since I have a flipped classroom model in my AP classes) each day after students have watched a video for homework they come to class and complete a “note check” over the video from the previous night. These note checks are always using a Google Form. These note checks are to hold students accountable for watching their videos by asking questions about the video, but they also give me a good picture of the understanding of the lesson. It also gives students a chance to ask questions that they may be hesitant to ask in class. I have previously written about my 4-3-2-1 wall to check for understanding (4 being the highest and 1 being the lowest) a second way to use Google Forms for formative assessment is to have a 4-3-2-1 Google Form to use any day and have students select their level of understanding on the Google Form. Again, using the summary function of the form, I can easily see where the majority of the class identifies their understanding and identify students who are needing additional assistance.

Google Forms are extremely easy to use, and you can take work that you already use in your classroom and adapt it to use in conjunction with the Google Form to have your own personal grader! I recommend using a QR code with the Google Form link to save time so that students don't have to type in the URL.

Caitlyn Layman, Vice President – High School

## News from Your VP University Representative

Keeping up with the latest technologies can be very challenging. I find that I do better when I spend time deepening my knowledge of and experience with technologies that I find effective in the learning environment. I think of it as preserving and developing my expertise with a valuable tool, rather than jumping to every new “app-of-the-month.” Two of my favorite technology resources for all learning environments are Nearpod and Flipgrid.

Nearpod (<http://nearpod.com>) is an interactive presentation and assessment tool that can increase student engagement through data gathering activities. Nearpod will allow educators to create presentations that can contain quizzes, polls, videos, images, web content, drawing boards, virtual field trips and more.

If you have not tried Flipgrid in your learning environment, then you should! Flipgrid is an excellent platform for student engagement and a means of formative assessment. Flipgrid is a website (<https://flipgrid.com>) that allows educators to create “grids” of short discussion-style questions that students respond to through recorded videos. I personally used Flipgrid this semester by posing questions and having my students post 90-second video responses. Students are very creative, enjoy watching their own and others' videos, and it allowed me to assess my students' understanding.

Rachelle Rogers, Vice President – University

# 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 15, 2019

**Eligibility:** Any student attending a Texas college or university and who plans on student teaching during 2019-2020 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 15, 2019**, to Arash Abnoussi at [aabnoussi@esc12.net](mailto:aabnoussi@esc12.net), 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. 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](http://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:

Molly Bowen

Baylor University

One Bear Place #97314

Waco, TX 76798

**ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY**

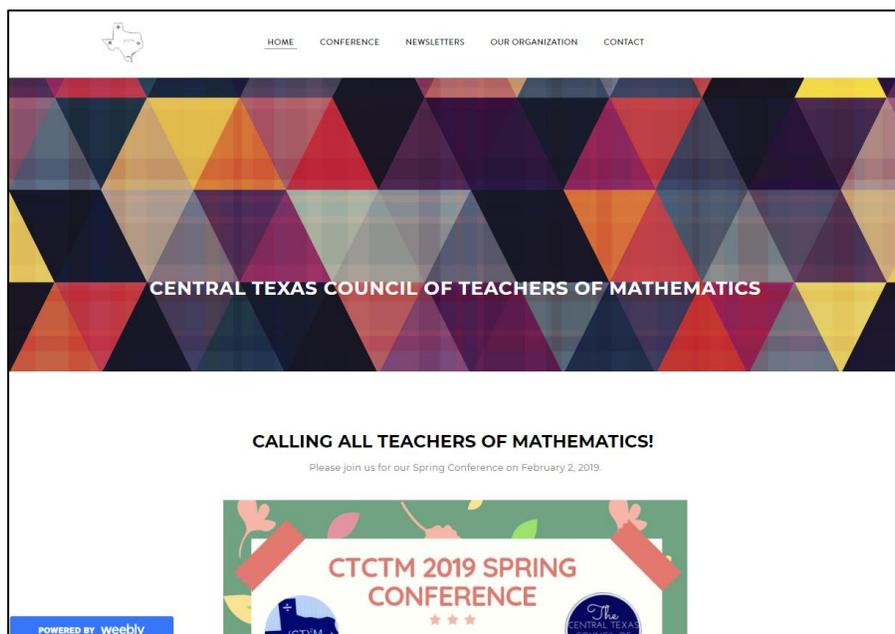
Date Entered/Renewed \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledgment Sent \_\_\_\_\_

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Members: Has your membership information changed?  
Contact Molly Bowen at [Molly\\_Bowen1@Baylor.edu](mailto:Molly_Bowen1@Baylor.edu) to update your information.  
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# Member News and Happenings

Did you hear? We have a new website!  
You can now find us at <https://ctctm.weebly.com/>.



## 2018-2019 CTCTM Officers

<p>President Arash Abnoussi Region 12 ESC <a href="mailto:aabnoussi@esc12.net">aabnoussi@esc12.net</a></p>	<p>Vice President - Elementary Debbie Strouse Midway ISD <a href="mailto:Debbie.Strouse@midwayisd.org">Debbie.Strouse@midwayisd.org</a></p>	<p>Vice President - Junior High Jane Sykes Waco ISD <a href="mailto:Jane.Sykes@wacoisd.org">Jane.Sykes@wacoisd.org</a></p>
<p>Vice President - High School Caitlyn Layman Waco ISD <a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Layman@wacoisd.org">Caitlyn.Layman@wacoisd.org</a></p>	<p>Vice President - Pre-Service Teachers Lindsey Carpenter Baylor University <a href="mailto:Lindsey_Carpenter@baylor.edu">Lindsey_Carpenter@baylor.edu</a></p>	<p>Vice President - University Rachelle Rogers Baylor University <a href="mailto:Rachelle_Rogers@baylor.edu">Rachelle_Rogers@baylor.edu</a></p>
<p>Treasurer Cheryl McDuff China Spring ISD <a href="mailto:Cherylmcduff1@gmail.com">Cherylmcduff1@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Secretary Ebony Cousins Waco ISD <a href="mailto:Ebony.Cousins@wacoisd.org">Ebony.Cousins@wacoisd.org</a></p>	<p>Membership Chair Molly Bowen Baylor University <a href="mailto:Molly_Bowen1@baylor.edu">Molly_Bowen1@baylor.edu</a></p>
<p>NCTM Representative Brandy Crowley Baylor University <a href="mailto:Brandy_Crowley1@baylor.edu">Brandy_Crowley1@baylor.edu</a></p>	<p>Community Relations Representative Lorri Sapp Midway ISD <a href="mailto:Lorri.Sapp@midwayisd.org">Lorri.Sapp@midwayisd.org</a></p>	<p>Newsletter &amp; Website Editor Ryann Shelton Baylor University <a href="mailto:Ryann_Shelton@baylor.edu">Ryann_Shelton@baylor.edu</a></p>



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