

THE NUMBER LINE

January 2008

www.lamath.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2007 LATM Annual Conference in Lafayette was quite a success with nearly 1,000 participants. While *Bonding with Math*, educators from around the state found a wonderful venue through which to network with others. The conference offered teachers professional development experiences that helped them recharge their batteries and much more.

A Conference of this size takes lots of hard work and commitment from so many people. Thanks to the dedication of our presenters, vendors, sponsors, and the Executive Council, this year was no exception. We were also fortunate to have the support of persons like John Hornsby, Elayn Gay, and Ms. Ollie Tyler who gave of their time to speak at the conference because of their belief in the importance of supporting the teaching of mathematics in Louisiana.

Of course, as one door closes, another opens. Plans are now underway for our 2008 Conference. This year, the conference will be held November 5-7 in Baton Rouge. We have hopes that this year will be bigger and better than ever. We would like to encourage each of you to become involved in your organization. You might have a great activity that you have used with your students that you'd like to share with others. Perhaps you have a colleague that you feel would be a great presenter. Please email me or anyone on the Executive Council to let us know how you'd like to contribute to the success of our organization. LATM needs your involvement.

I look forward to seeing you in Baton Rouge!

Jeremy Muse
LATM President
musej@apsb.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
Mark you calendar!!
There is a Date Change
for our
2008 LATM Conference
in Baton Rouge
November 5-7, 2008

Members of the LATM Executive Council

Jeremy Muse President musej@apsb.org	Maudry Alfred Membership Chair maudry.alfred@cpsb.org	Tina Armand LCSM Representative tarmand@avoyellespsb.com
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NCTM NEWS

CHECK YOUR CALENDAR 2008 ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION BECOMING CERTAIN ABOUT UNCERTAINTY SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH - APRIL 9-12, 2008

This is an event you can't afford to miss! You'll learn how to improve your mathematics teaching, view the latest products and services in the Exhibit Hall and NCTM Bookstore, network with colleagues from around the world, as well as explore the attractions of Salt Lake City. Online conference registration and hotel reservations are now available for this must-attend event in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sessions at the NCTM 2008 Annual Meeting and Exposition cover teachers of all grades, from prekindergarten to grade 12, as well as higher education and teacher educator issues.

For more information on the sessions, visit www.nctm.org/slc

Preregistration Deadline: February 29, 2008

Hotel Reservation Deadline: March 13, 2008

Mathematical Journeys: Infinite Possibilities

Theme of 2008 Conference

New Dates Announced!

The theme of the 2008 LATM Annual Conference is *Mathematical Journeys: Infinite Possibilities*. This professional development conference will be held in Baton Rouge from Wednesday, November 5 through Friday, November 7, 2008. **Note that is a change from the previously announced dates** of November 6-8. The conference planning committee chose the previous dates to avoid a conflict with LSU home games. It was announced in late December that the LSU football schedule had been changed. LSU will play Alabama on November 8. Since all weekends at the conference facilities were booked from October through December, the conference committee made a decision to move the conference to the new dates to avoid potential conflicts with game day activities and room availability on Friday evening.

Conference sessions will be held at the Baton Rouge River Center and the Hilton Capitol Center Hotel. Forms for submitting Extended Sessions and One-Hour Presentations are included in this newsletter.

Hotel Reservations

The Hilton Capitol Center is a four star hotel with lavish amenities to be enjoyed by all. The hotel was a significant part of Louisiana's colorful political history. From Huey P. Long to John F. Kennedy, the hotel was home to American Presidents, glamorous celebrities and generations of weddings, conventions, and loyal business travelers. The Hilton Capitol Center is a combination of the historic Heidelberg and Capitol House Hotels which have been fully restored to their former state of grandeur with over \$70 million in renovations. The hotel is 100% smoke free. See the hotel's website: http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/BTRCPHF-Hilton-Baton-Rouge-Capitol-Center-Louisiana/index.do.

Call 1-225-3-HILTON to make reservations. Be sure to indicate that you will be attending the LATM conference. The conference rates are \$129 for single and double standard rooms, and \$139 for single and double rooms for Riverview rooms (rooms that overlook the river). According to current state guidelines, these fees are fully reimbursable under travel guidelines which allow 25% over state conference lodging rates in areas designated as high cost after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Arrangements have been made at the nearby Sheraton Convention Center Hotel for additional rooms at the same rates.

Conference Awards Banquet

You definitely want to plan to attend the LATM Conference Banquet which will be held in the Heidelberg Ballroom on the 10th floor of the Hilton. You will be able to take in the panoramic view of the Baton Rouge skyline, the Old Governor's Mansion, and the activity on the Mississippi River as you enjoy some of Louisiana's best cuisine! The 2007 Presidential Awardee in Mathematics Teaching, the 2008 Presidential Awardee State Finalists, and the 2008 LATM Outstanding Teachers of Mathematics will be honored at the time. More details on how to reserve your place and the keynote speaker will be provided in the pre-Conference newsletter.

Bond With Math Conference 2007 Action



LATM Outstanding Teacher Awards

Congratulations to the 2007 LATM Award Winners!

Elementary Finalists

Claudia Babin, Raceland Upper Elementary, Raceland
Stephanie Cobb, Woodlawn Elementary School, West Monroe
Christy Presley, Central Park Elementary, Bossier City

Winner

April Miles, Summer Grove Elementary, Shreveport

Middle School/Junior High Finalists

Jennifer Carpenter, Atlanta High, Atlanta
Nancy Hicks, Woodlawn Middle School, Baton Rouge
Deana Shipley, St. Andrew the Apostle School, New Orleans

Winner

Gregory O'Quinn, J. S. Clark Middle School, Shreveport

High School Finalists

Brandi Chism, Livonia High, Livonia
Iris Nettles, Scotlandville Magnet High, Baton Rouge
Donna Patton, West Monroe High, Ouachita

Winner

Terry Sermons, C. E. Byrd High, Shreveport

College/University

Winner

Susan Santolucito, Delgado Community College, New Orleans



Congratulations to the 2007-08 QSM Math Award Winners

Allison Kirkland	Amanda Moore	Amy Liberta	Andrea Durapau
Angela McClintock	Antoinette Alexander	Ashley Cotten	Beth Hooper
Bethany Sprout	Brenda Storey	Bridget Soumeillan	Bryan Staton
Carl Gilmore	Christina Lampkin	Christine Clement	Christine Henderson
Cynthia Johnson	Dale Anne Dupre'	Dana Williams	Dane-Catherine Bogart
Daphne Moore	Darnell Fontenot	Debra B. Schexnaildre	Denise Brashear
Dian Pellegrin	Dianne Studdard	Donna Arnone	Eleanor Jones
Elizabeth Hartmann	Ellen Fort	Eugenie Brown	Heather Brooks
Ivan Ray LaFleur	Jacob Hesselschwardt	Jacque Fontenot	Jacqueline Boudreaux
Janet Lorio	Jeanne Flynn	Jennifer Hughes	Jennifer McElveen
Jennifer Pastor	Jessica Gauthier	Jessica McClelland	Jill M. Bain
Johanna Bowman	John Williams	Johnnette Smiley	Jolene Broxson
Joyce P. Hunter	Julie Matherne	June Karlton	Kammie Buxton
Kara Ronshak	Kara Washington	Karen Chaddrick	Karen Cotton
Karen Day	Kate Lundquist	Kathleen Faherty	Kayla Hopkins
Kimberly Daniels	Kristin Bordelon	Kristy Strother	Lana Dantone
LaTara Dehon	Leslie Deshotel	Leslie Domangue	Lynda LeBlanc
Maria Theresa Yabut	Marian Simmons	Marjorie Manuel	Mary Bissell
Mary Lee Mattox	Melissa Maurer	Monica Alphonso	Nan Goudeau
Nancy Serio	Natalie Guzzetta	Paul Roberts	Rachel Cormier
Randall Brazell	Ranell Troxler	Rebecca Clark	Rebeccah Lofton
Renee Floyd	Roderick Bradford	Ruby Covington	Sabrina Racca
Sadie Zimmer	Sandy Marts-Brown	Sarah Adams	Selene Landry
Sheila Saucier	Sinnidra Taylor	Stephanie Babin	Stephanie Gaspard
Suanne Jacobs	Sue Thomas	Sunny Ockman	Susan Aymond
Tammy Sturdivant	Tanishia Tinson	Tarwarnisha Thompson	Tawaskie Anderson
Terry Peyton	Tifarah Dial-Traylor	Tiffany Martin	Tina M. Buller
Tinashe Blanchet	Tonya Person	Vicki Martin	Vicki Wigger
Wiley M. Cummings, Jr			

LATM CONGRATULATES THE NEW 2007 MATH NBCTS

Mathematics/Early Adolescence Certification

Angela Veatch, Ascension
Melanie Williams, Ascension
Stephanie Gullage, St Charles
Rhonda Schexnayder, St Charles

Mathematics/Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Tracey Swacker, Ascension
Bert Algood, Caddo
Nancy Callaway, Episcopal High School
Kristen Bermudez, Jefferson
Karen Butler, Jefferson
Paula Landry, Lafayette
Patricia Edminston, St. Tammany
Carol Price, Zachary



2006 Awardee (Elementary mathematics)
Suzanne Buras
Lake Harbor Middle School, St. Tammany

2007 Finalists (Secondary Mathematics)
Pamela Goodner,
Episcopal High, Baton Rouge
Patricia Edmiston,
Covington High School, St. Tammany
Kim Melancon,
St. Amant & Donaldsonville High, Ascension



Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). This celebrated award, administered by the National Science Foundation for the White House, identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers in grades K-12. Competition alternates each year between teachers of K-6 and teachers of grades 7-12. K-6 teachers may apply in 2008; teachers of grades 7-12 may apply in 2009. Nominations must be made online by March 1, 2008 at <http://www.paemst.org/controllers/nomination.cfc?method=nominate>. Teachers will be notified electronically of their nomination after their eligibility has been verified. Application information is available at the National Science Foundation's website at www.nsf.gov/pa.

Awardees will receive a \$10,000 personal award from the National Science Foundation. LATM also gives an award of \$500 to each person designated as a finalist.

FIRST ANNUAL LATM MATH AWARDS 2008 SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

LATM proudly announces the first LATM awards for Mathematics will be presented during the 2008 Louisiana State Science and Engineering Fair April 7-8, 2008. LATM will present cash prizes of \$100.00, \$50.00, and \$25 for first, second and third place winners in both the junior and senior level categories. Judging criteria will include creative use of mathematics in approaching and investigating a question and the use, analysis, and interpretation of data.

The Science and Engineering Fair is both a competition and an opportunity for students to focus on interesting questions and problems in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics. The State competition brings the regional winners from across Louisiana to the LSU campus each year. Winners in the regional programs compete for state awards and the opportunity to participate in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. This year the International event will be held in Atlanta, GA May 11-17th.





Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics
 LATM Annual Conference 2008
 November 5-7, 2008 Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Extended Session Proposal Form

Please Print or Type

Lead Presenter Name:		Agency/School:	
Preferred Mailing Address:		City:	State:
Work Phone: ()	Fax: ()	Home Phone: ()	
Cell Phone: ()		***e-mails sent during summer – home e-mail preferred***	
E-mail (required):		Alternate E-mail:	
Co-Presenters: Attach a separate sheet to this form and include the above information for each person.			
Intended Audience (check only one):			
<input type="checkbox"/> PK – 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-8	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12+	<input type="checkbox"/> General Interest	
<p>Extended Sessions will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008. Indicate the length of the proposed session. For 3 hour presentation, Indicate the desired time slot. Lead Presenters will receive a stipend of \$50 for a 3 hour session and \$100 for a 6 hour session.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 hours I prefer <input type="checkbox"/> 8:30 - 11:30 AM <input type="checkbox"/> 12:30 – 3:30 PM</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6 hours All six hour sessions will be held from approximately 8:30 - 3:00 (½ hour for lunch)</p>			
Session Title:			
Description (30 words or less):			
Site Location/ Equipment/ Commitment - Please indicate:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Number of Participants you can effectively manage.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrangements have been made by lead presenter to hold this session at _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> This session will require use of a Computer Lab. (Conference Committee will handle.)			
<p>Check below if you plan to use an overhead projector. Presenters must provide additional equipment (computers, LCD panels, internet access, and other items) needed for the presentation.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I will need an overhead projector for my presentation.</p>			
<p>On behalf of the presenter(s) listed in this proposal, I/we understand that I/we will be responsible for the rental costs of additional audiovisual equipment ordered from the hotel's AV service.</p>			
<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of Person Submitting Proposal</p>		<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>	
<p>Mail form by June 3, 2008 to: Maryanne Smith, St. Tammany Parish Schools, 227 N. Jefferson, Covington, LA 70433. You may also e-mail the completed form to maryanne.smith@stpsb.org or smith70471@yahoo.com or fax it to Maryanne Smith at (985) 898-6493.</p> <p><i>Please note that this deadline is earlier than the deadline for One Hour Presentations due to the fact that Extended Sessions will be advertised in advance of the conference.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">You will be notified of the acceptance of your proposal by e-mail.</p>			



Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics
 LATM Annual Conference 2008
 November 5-7, 2008 Baton Rouge, Louisiana
One Hour Presentation Proposal Form

Please Print or Type

Lead Presenter Name:		Agency/School:	
Preferred Mailing Address:		City:	State:
Work Phone: ()	Fax: ()	Home Phone: ()	
Cell Phone: ()		***e-mails sent during summer – home e-mail preferred***	
E-mail (required):		Alternate E-mail:	
Co-Presenters: Attach a separate sheet to this form and include the above information for each person.			
Intended Audience (check only one):			
<input type="checkbox"/> PK – 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-8	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12+	<input type="checkbox"/> General Interest	
<p>You may indicate a preferred time slot, but it will likely be impossible to honor all requests. The program chairs reserve the right to assign a different time slot with the intent of providing the most balanced program possible.</p> <p>60 minute demonstration or workshop: <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday AM <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday PM <input type="checkbox"/> Friday AM <input type="checkbox"/> No preference</p> <p>Would you be willing to present this session more than once? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Number of participants you can accommodate: <input type="checkbox"/> 30 <input type="checkbox"/> 50 <input type="checkbox"/> 100 All rooms will accommodate more than 50 participants.</p>			
Session Title:			
Description (30 words or less):			

Equipment and Commitment: Check below if you plan to use an overhead projector. Presenters must provide additional equipment (computers, LCD panels, internet access, and other items) needed for the presentation

I will need an overhead projector for my presentation.

On behalf of the presenter(s) listed in this proposal, I/we understand that I/we must register for the conference and be responsible for the rental costs of additional audiovisual equipment ordered from the hotel's AV service.

Signature of Person Submitting Proposal

Date

Note: There is a reduced registration rate for the LEAD Presenter. A special registration form will be sent upon acceptance of the proposal

Mail form by July 15, 2008 to: Maryanne Smith, St. Tammany Parish Schools, 227 N. Jefferson, Covington, LA 70433. You may also email the completed form to maryanne.smith@stpsb.org or smith70471@yahoo.com or fax it to Maryanne Smith at (985) 898-6493.

You will be notified of the acceptance of your proposal by e-mail.

Affiliates in Action

ACTM

For information on ACTM activities contact Cat McKay.

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

Keeping the objectives of our organization in mind, each meeting we try to provide opportunities for sharing, reflecting and updating of critical information. Last year, during our meetings, we creatively traveled around the United States to learn how Math is infused throughout our daily lives. From Hollywood in September when we viewed video clips that showed math being used in a favorable light, to Vegas in November where we saw how probability and statistics affects the gambling industry, to our conference in February where the theme *Math on the Move* gave us a variety of practical uses in the classroom, we had a very productive year!

This year at our first meeting, John Thacker of the LIGO Science Education Center, engaged all in attendance in a hands on activity that connected science and math instruction. Teachers of all levels interacted with each other for an enjoyable learning experience. At our second meeting, we focused on the connection of Math and Literacy. Each member shared how math and literacy are linked in their own classrooms. BRAC TM members in attendance walked away from the meeting with over 25 ideas to try!



Our next event is our annual mini-conference. It will be held on Saturday, February 16 from 8am-1pm at the LSU Lab School. The theme this year is *Math is Everywhere!* Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. If you would like preregistration information, you can contact our membership chair, Kelly Dumas, at kdumas2@lsu.edu. We are also still accepting proposals for presenters. If you would be willing to share your creative expertise, please contact our program chair, Ellen Daugherty at edaugh1@lsu.edu.

Greater New Orleans Teachers of Mathematics (GNOTM)

GNOTM held its annual mini-conference, MATH IS NOT SO SCARY on Saturday, October 27th at the Pan-American Life Center on Poydras. It was a great success with over 150 attendees from the New Orleans Area.

Kay Frantz was our keynote speaker and everyone enjoyed her talk on problem solving. Attendees could then choose from 12 other sessions to attend. The board will meet again in January to begin planning for our Teacher Recognition Reception this Spring.

Louisiana Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (LCSM)

LCSM met Thursday, October 11, 2007 during LATM at the Lafayette Hilton. Following a brief business report, Carolyn Sessions shared LDE updates as they related to Mathematics, End of Course Testing, and High School Redesign. Jean May-Brett presented updates on MSP projects.

Newly elected LCSM officers are:

President - Emily Rash, Monroe City Schools (emily.rash@mcschools.net)

Vice-President – Sharon Thomas, Jefferson Parish Schools (sharon.thomas@jppss.k12.la.us)

Treasurer – Jean Ware, Caddo Parish Schools (jware@caddo.k12.la.us)

Secretary – Jan Latino, St. Tammy Parish Schools (jan.latino@stpsb.org)

LATM Representative – Tina Armand, Avoyelles Parish Schools (tarmand@avoyellespsb.com)

NCTM Representative – DesLey Plaisance, Nicholls State University (desley.plaisance@nicholls.edu)

The spring meeting of LCSM will be held in May 7th and new members are welcome. Anyone serving as a math supervisor, curriculum specialist, math coach, etc. is invited to join. Membership is \$15. Please contact one of the officers for more information.

Northeast Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (NELATM)

We are pleased to announce that based on the recommendation of the Affiliate Services Committee, at its July 2007 meeting the NCTM Board of Directors granted affiliation to the Northeast Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (NELATM). A celebration was held at the September meeting of NELATM.

This year NELATM is offering three different NCTM e-Workshops. An e-Workshop is a 90-minute professional development workshop delivered via the Internet to our classroom from NCTM. These workshops have provided techniques for integrating algebraic concepts in the classroom and the next workshops will provide a deeper understanding of geometric concepts, as well as classroom activities. In September and October, workshops for *Implementing the Algebra Standard in Grades 6-8* and *Grades 9-12* were held. In these algebra workshops patterns, representations, modeling, and analysis of change were explored using a variety of formats, including utilization of virtual manipulatives. The information attained at these sessions was excellent. A workshop for Geometric Thinking in Grades 3-5 will be held in January. In this geometry workshop, activities will promote student understanding of shapes, spatial relationships, transformations, and visualization using resources that will enable connections among geometric properties and theorems.

Last year's first NELATM mini-conference was a huge success with almost 300 math teachers and pre-service teachers in attendance and 30 sessions to enjoy. This year's mini-conference is Saturday, February 16, 2008. Numerous door prizes will be awarded throughout the conference. In addition to professional growth and interaction, individuals can receive up to 3 CLU's. Registration and presentation proposal forms can be found at <http://www.nelatm.org>.



Northwest Louisiana Mathematics Association (NLMA)

Jazzin' It Up With Math and Music

February 16, 2008

8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

LSU- Shreveport University Center

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Fairest Hill,

International Motivational Speaker

SouthEast Area Teachers of Mathematics (SEATM)

SEATM has good news to share.

Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Edmiston of Covington High School. Pat has been named as one of the state finalists for Mathematics for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Pat's application packet has been sent to Washington, D.C. where a National Science Foundation selection committee will review it. Winners will be notified in the spring. The Presidential award winners will travel to Washington, D.C. for a weeklong event. Congratulations to Pat and good luck.

Also, Pat found out in December that she achieved National Board Certification in Mathematics/Adolescents and Young Adults. Way to go Pat!

Many SEATM members presented and attended the LATM Conference in Lafayette in October. A big thanks to everyone involved. It was a great conference.

SouthEast Area Teachers of Mathematics will hold a spring meeting in late February. Please check the website, <http://lakeharbormiddle.stpsb.org/SEATM.htm> for the latest information.

SouthWest Louisiana Teachers of Mathematics (SWLTM)

Southwest Louisiana Teachers of Mathematics held a Fall meeting on November 10, 2007. Dr. DesLey Plaisance, an assistant professor from Nicholls State University, discussed Mathematics Anxiety. Valerie Johnson spoke about Barbe High School's Mu Alpha Theta organization, a National Mathematics Honor Society for high school and 2 year college students. Look for our upcoming Math Mini Conference to be held at McNeese State University this spring. Contact Carolyn Stewart at cstewart@mcneese.edu for any additional information concerning mini conference or membership.



SWLTM President Vicky Hand with DesLey Plaisance



Valerie Johnson with Mu Alpha Theta members

Mathematics Education

LATM JOURNAL RETURNS

SHARE YOUR MATHEMATICAL IDEAS!

Plans are being made for Volume 4 of the LATM Journal. Jeremy Muse and Sue Moyers will be working with Andy Talmadge of UNO and Katherine (Katie) Pedersen, Southeastern Louisiana University on the Journal. At least one volume of the LATM Journal is planned annually.

We encourage LATM members to consider sharing your work in math education by submitting an item to the LATM Journal. Louisiana mathematics teachers, pre-K to University, have accepted some of the more difficult educational challenges: for example, diversity in mathematics learning skills; upgrading mathematics curricula; supporting professional development at all levels.

We need contributions from all levels: elementary, middle, secondary and post-secondary. What is your favorite classroom activity? What mathematics questions interest you and your students?

Please consider involvement in the LATM Journal as one of your professional goals for this year. It is a great opportunity for professional growth. Please contact Jeremy, Sue (see above), or Katie if you have any questions. Manuscripts may be submitted electronically and should be submitted to kpetersen@selu.edu. Submissions will be accepted in early February for a Spring LATM Journal. Manuscripts may, however, be submitted at any time. Past LATM Journals can be found at <http://www2.selu.edu/orgs/LATM>.

AMERICAN STAR of TEACHING

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is accepting nominations for 2008 American Stars of Teaching until **March 31**. Parents, students, colleagues, school administrators and others can nominate an exemplary teacher who they believe has the qualities to be an American Star of Teaching.

We are seeking nominations of teachers across the United States who are improving student achievement, using innovative strategies in the classroom and making a difference in the lives of their students. Teachers across all grade levels and disciplines will be honored as 2008 American Stars of Teaching this fall. To nominate a teacher, go to:

<http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html>.

The U.S. Department of Education received more than 4,000 nominations for the 2007 school year. You can read archived news stories about some of our 2007 American Stars at <https://www.t2tweb.us/Updates/Archives.asp>.

EXTRA-CREDIT MATH PROBLEMS FROM NASA -- Grades 7-9

These activities comprise a series of 20 practical math applications in space science. Students looking for additional challenges in math and physical science are encouraged to use these as potential extra credit problems. The problems are authentic glimpses of modern engineering issues that arise in designing satellites to work in space. Each word problem has background information providing insight into the basic phenomena of the sun-Earth system, specifically space weather. The one-page assignments are accompanied by one-page teacher's guides with answer keys.

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Extra-Credit-Problems-in-Space-Science.html>

ENCOURAGING GIRLS IN MATH AND SCIENCE

The National Center for Education Research (NCER) has released "Encouraging Girls in Math and Science," the second in a series of guides about education. Developed by a panel of experts, this guide brings together the best available evidence and expertise to provide educators with specific and coherent evidence-based recommendations on how to encourage girls in the fields of math and science. The objective is to provide teachers with specific recommendations that can be carried out in the classroom without requiring systemic change. Other school personnel having direct contact with students -- such as coaches, counselors, and principals -- may also find the guide useful. The guide offers five recommendations and indicates the quality of the evidence that supports the recommendations:

1. Teach students that academic abilities are expandable and improvable.
2. Provide prescriptive, informational feedback.
3. Expose girls to female role models who have succeeded in math and science.
4. Create a classroom environment that sparks initial curiosity and fosters long-term interest in math and science.
5. Provide spatial skills training.

Together, the recommendations make a coherent statement: To encourage girls in math and science, educators need to strengthen girls' beliefs about their abilities in math and science, spark and maintain greater interest in these subject areas, and build associated skills. The guide is available <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/20072003.pdf> as a PDF online.

MOODY'S MEGA MATH CHALLENGE

The Moody's Mega Math Challenge spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool, as a viable and exciting profession, and as a vital contributor to advances in an increasingly technical society. The Challenge is entirely Internet-based and there are no entrance or participation fees. Scholarship prizes total \$65,000. Teams consist of three to five high school juniors and/or seniors, with up to two teams accepted from each school. Students select their preferred Challenge day to work: Saturday, March 8, or Sunday, March 9. Students have 14 hours during the Challenge weekend to independently solve an open-ended, realistic, applied math-modeling problem focused on real-world issues. Teams download the problem at 7:00 a.m. on their selected Challenge day and must upload their paper by 9:00 p.m. that same evening.

To become a teacher-coach, teachers must register their teams before March 3, 2008. Teacher-coaches are not required to be physically with their team on Challenge day and are prohibited from helping their team during the Challenge itself. Coaches are responsible for selecting the team, submitting registration, communicating the contest rules and guidelines to the team, receiving all contest communications, and preparing the team for the Challenge. All information about the Challenge is found at: <http://m3challenge.siam.org/register/> including registration information, complete rules and guidelines, and sample problems.

NCTM Welcomes Legislative Priority on K–12 Math Education

The agreement reached by Senate and House conferees on S. 2272, the America COMPETES Act, was welcomed today by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). The legislation includes a dedicated focus on enhancing mathematics education in elementary and middle schools, and on math coaches.

“The Council has been working hard the past two years to emphasize the importance of mathematics education as the critical foundation for all STEM careers and key to America’s competitiveness in the global marketplace,” said NCTM President Francis (Skip) Fennell. “This legislation shows that policymakers not only understand the importance, but also support dedicated funding for K–12 mathematics education.”

The conference agreement authorizes new grant programs to enhance math education at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In addition to support for best practices and in-service training, the bill provides targeted help to low-income students who are struggling with mathematics. NCTM is hopeful that Congressional authorizers will work to fund some of these new, but crucial, initiatives in the current spending cycle. The conference agreement follows through on a commitment to ensure U.S. students, teachers, businesses, and workers are prepared to continue leading the world in innovation, research, and technology well into the future.

The bill also includes a provision to provide in-service training for mathematics coaches who can assist secondary school teachers to develop and improve students’ mathematical abilities and knowledge, and assist teachers in assessing and improving student achievement.

“We know that the lack of proper mentoring and support for teachers is one reason so many leave the profession in their first few years of teaching,” said Fennell. “The guidance and support provided by a growing group of math coaches will help early and mid-career teachers and afford better learning opportunities for students.”

The Council also expressed its support for the formation of an expert panel through the National Academy of Sciences to provide information on promising practices for strengthening teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at the elementary and secondary school levels. The panel would build on the work of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel to synthesize their work with promising practices

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