

The V²CTM Reflection



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THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

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Fall Meeting October 7 at Skyline Middle School

The Annual Fall V²CTM Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2014, at Skyline Middle School in Harrisonburg. The meeting will feature a catered dinner, followed by a keynote address and two breakout sessions. To get to Skyline Middle, from Interstate 81



take Exit 247 (US 33 East). Immediately get into left lane, then turn left at first traffic light onto Linda Lane. Continue through the light; turn right when you see the school signs: Skyline Middle School adjoins Smithland Elementary. Register on-line at <http://v2ctm.org>. Registrations need to be in before October 1. Conference registration costs are only \$5 and include a fully catered dinner provided by White Hill Catering. There will be numerous appealing door prizes! The program is below:

4:30 – 5:00 **Registration**

5:00 – 5:45 **Dinner** catered by White Hill Catering (Meat Lasagna with Homemade Marinara Sauce, Vegetable Lasagna with Homemade Alfredo Sauce, Mixed Vegetable Medley, Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert, Sweetened/Unsweetened Tea and Water)

5:45 – 6:00 **Business Meeting/Door Prizes:** Jenny Gibson, V²CTM President

6:00 – 7:00 **Keynote Address:** *If You Want Smart Thinkers in Mathematics, You Have to Engage in Smart Teaching*, Dr. John Almarode, James Madison University.

7:15 – 8:15 **Breakout Sessions**

Elementary K-5 Session: *Differentiation in the Elementary Mathematics Classroom*, Dr. Kateri Thunder, James Madison University

Middle & High School Session: *Flipping Out Over Math*, Kara Velez, Wilbur S. Pence Middle School and Amanda Rickard, East Rockingham High School

Local Math Educators To Present Sessions

Keynote Address

If You Want Smart Thinkers in Mathematics, You Have to Engage in Smart Teaching

You can lead your students to class, but can you make them think? As it turns out, the answer is yes! A recent body of research on teaching, learning, and cognitive development suggests that innovative thinkers are made and not born. Drawing from the latest body of research on innovative thinking, transfer, and cognitive development, this keynote session will look at the necessary and important components of classroom instruction that fosters and nurtures smart thinkers in mathematics.

Dr. John Almarode is an Assistant Professor in the College of Education at James Madison University and Head of the Educational Foundations and Exceptionalities Department. John began his career in Augusta County, Virginia, teaching a wide-range of students. At James Madison University, he works with pre-service teachers, and actively pursues his research interests including educational neuroscience, the design and measurement of classroom environments that promote student engagement and learning, interest and engagement in STEM disciplines, specialized STEM high schools, and college and university laboratory schools. The work of John and his colleagues has been presented to the United States Congress, Virginia Senate, at the United States Department of Education as well as the Office of Science and Technology Policy, The White House. John has presented locally, nationally, and internationally on the application of neuroscience to classroom, school, and home environments. He has authored multiple articles, reports, book chapters, and two books including *Captivate, Activate, and Invigorate the Student Brain in Science and Math, Grades 6 - 12* (Corwin Press, 2013).

John lives in Waynesboro, Virginia with his wife Danielle, a fellow educator, their two children, Tessa and Jackson, and labrador retrievers, Angel and Forest.

Breakout Sessions

Differentiation in the Elementary Mathematics Classroom (K – 5)

Make differentiation a habit in your lesson planning process! Differentiation is altering a component of a lesson to make the learning objectives of the lesson accessible and engaging for each individual student. It is not creating separate lessons for groups of students or individuals. Every lesson can be easily differentiated based on students' readiness levels or their interests while the learning objectives remain the same for all students. Differentiation can help every student grow as a mathematician. Come learn more about what differentiation is and how to effectively differentiate your mathematics lessons based on readiness and interest.

Dr. Kateri Thunder is an assistant professor of mathematics education at JMU. Previously, she taught second grade and worked as a mathematics specialist in Charlottesville City Schools.

Flipping Out over Math (6 – 12)

What's a "flipped classroom?" How do you go about creating one? What are the issues and benefits you'll deal with? Two local experts will describe their experiences of creating and teaching in a flipped classroom.

Kara Velez grew up in Cross Keys and is a product of Rockingham County Schools (Keezletown Elementary, Montevideo Intermediate, and Eastern Mennonite High School). She is a graduate of Bridgewater College and has taught for eighteen years at Wilbur S. Pence Middle School. She began implementing a fully flipped classroom model with her Math 8 students last year, and added her Algebra I classes this year. She has been married to her husband, Nemi, for almost 17 years, and they have two sons, Nehemiah (14) and Christian (12).

Amanda Rickard was born in Maryland and moved to the Shenandoah Valley area in 2004, when she married her husband, TJ. They now have two children, Keegan (7) and Maggie (almost 2). She is starting her 11th year of teaching, nine years of which have been in Rockingham County. She is currently teaching at East Rockingham High School and has been there since it opened in 2010. Previously, she used videos of her lectures for students who were absent or for sub plans. Last year, she completely flipped her Algebra 2 and Math Analysis classes. This year, she is trying out a flipped mastery model with her Algebra 2 class.

2014-2015 V²CTM Officers

President..... Jenny Gibson, Rockingham County Schools (ygibson@rockingham.k12.va.us)
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V²CTM Slate of Officers for 2015

At the business meeting on October 7, the following slate of officers will be presented:

President Elect – Anne Loso (Harrisonburg City Schools)

Treasurer – John (Zig) Siegfried (James Madison University)

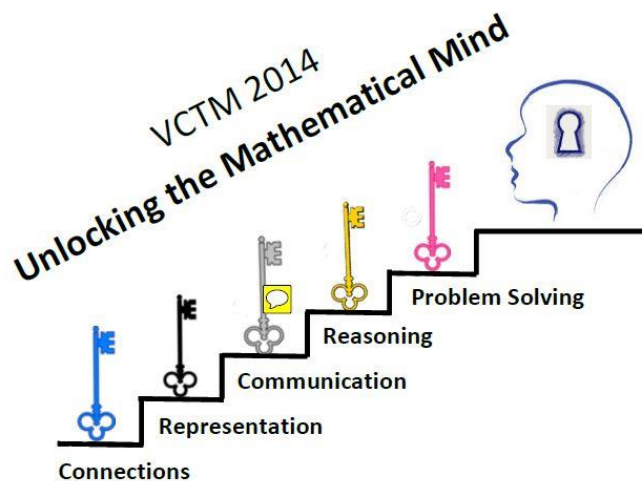
Board Members – Jeannie Sterner (Rockingham County Public Schools), Kara Velez (Rockingham County Public Schools) and Laurie Biser (Augusta County Schools)

Please Designate V²CTM when you join NCTM

When you join or renew your NCTM membership online, our local affiliate, V²CTM, benefits financially. For each new member, we receive \$5.00 and for each renewal, we receive \$3.00. The online form at <http://nctm.org> has a place for you to select Valley of Virginia Council of Teachers of Math as your affiliate organization. So please join the national organization and designate us as the one to receive the rebate.

V²CTM Benefits from Hosting 2014 VCTM Conference

Thanks to all those who assisted with the 2014 Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference which was held at James Madison University last March 14 and 15. Not only did hundreds of local teachers receive top-notch professional development, V²CTM benefited financially from sharing in the conference proceeds with VCTM. Special thanks goes to program chairman Kyle Schultz and conference chairman LouAnn Lovin.



James Madison University
March 14-15, 2014

Amanda Rickard Receives V²CTM Award



Each year, the Valley of Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics recognizes a classroom teacher on the elementary, middle, secondary, university, or math specialist/coach level for his/her outstanding work in the field of mathematics education with the *H. Joseph Hill Award for Excellence in Mathematics Education*. The 2014 award goes to Amanda Rickard from East Rockingham High School. Amanda is one of the presenters at the October 7 meeting, and her bio is shown above. Teachers were nominated last fall, and a committee selected the winner. Ordinarily, the award is presented at the spring V²CTM meeting, but since V²CTM hosted the VCTM conference in March 2014, there was no local meeting. Congratulations, Amanda!

Winners in Regional 24 Tournament Announced

The winners in the annual Regional 24 Challenge Tournament held on April 9 at Wilson Middle School were as follows:

1st Place:

Grayson Wright from Wilson Elementary School in Augusta County

Finalists:

Jack Liskey from Clymore Elementary School in Augusta County

Caroline Cheung from Stuarts Draft Elementary School in Augusta County

Tony Townsend from Nathaniel Green Elementary School in Greene County

Many thanks to Laurie Biser for coordinating this highly successful event.

Bridgewater College to host Share Fair Nation Event

The Bridgewater Share Fair 2014 is a STEM event sponsored by the Morgridge Family Foundation that provides PreK-12 educators the opportunity to join the conversation around inspired teaching and learning, to collaborate and share best practices, to discover emergent strategies and technologies, and to see firsthand valuable and innovative approaches to delivering 21st Century learning. The event will be held at Bridgewater College on November 8, 2014. There will be sessions on Adaptive Math Lessons, Khan Academy, KEVA Planks, Learning through Dynamic Mapping, SMART Technologies, a “Virtual Sandbox” and more. For a full list of presenters and session descriptions, visit the Bridgewater Share Fair Nation website by clicking [here](#). There is no charge for the event and lunch is included. Recertification points could be earned by attending. You’re invited to visit this website and register for Share Fair Nation at Bridgewater College.



DOE News

Statewide Math SOL Scores Show Improvement

As detailed in a [press release](#) from the Virginia Department of Education, student achievement improved during 2013-14 on the challenging mathematics SOL tests first introduced three years ago.

Mathematics Test	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Grade 3 Mathematics	64	65	67
Grade 4 Mathematics	70	74	80
Grade 5 Mathematics	67	69	73
Grade 6 Mathematics	74	77	76
Grade 7 Mathematics	58	61	65
Grade 8 Mathematics	60	61	67
Algebra I	75	76	79
Geometry	74	76	77
Algebra II	69	76	82
Combined Mathematics	68	71	74

New Mathematics Vocabulary Word Wall Cards

Vocabulary Word Wall Cards have now been posted to the DOE Website for Algebra I, Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis, and Algebra II. They can be accessed at the [Mathematics Vocabulary Word Wall Card](#) page of the DOE website.

Sixth Graders To Take Computer Adaptive SOL Test in 2015

In 2014-2015, most students taking grade-6 mathematics will be administered a computer adaptive version of the SOL test. More information about this can be found on the [Standards of Learning Testing](#) page of the DOE website. Also, see [Superintendent's Memo 189-14](#) for additional information.

JMU Offers Online Masters of Education in Mathematics for Secondary Teachers

JMU is now offering a Master's of Education in Mathematics online. The program, aimed at secondary teachers, includes a minimum of 34 credit hours of course work which are organized with 13 hours of educational development and 21 hours of mathematics. All the course work for this program is offered online. A brochure which describes the program can be downloaded from the V²CTM website, <http://v2ctm.org>
For more information, contact the program's director:

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Upcoming Events

SUMS Conference

James Madison University October 4, 2014

STEM Share Fair

Bridgewater College November 8, 2014

NCTM 2014 Regional Conference & Exposition

Richmond, VA November 12-14, 2014

Information available at <http://www.nctm.org>

V²CTM Board Meeting

Rockingham County Public Schools Board Office November 17, 2014

Harrisonburg STEM Day

Valley Mall, Harrisonburg February 21, 2015

V²CTM Spring 2015 Meeting

Harrisonburg High School March 16 or 17 (TBA), 2015

NCTM 2015 Annual Meeting & Exposition

Boston MA April 15-18, 2015

Regional 24 Tournament

Hosted by Augusta County Schools

Wilson Middle School April 16, 2015

Contact Laurie Biser (lbiser@augusta.k12.va.us) for more information

V²CTM Fall Meeting Registration

There is no paper registration for the fall conference. To register you must access the online registration at <http://v2ctm.org>. You may pay your \$5 conference fees at the door on October 7. Please complete your registration before October 1 so we will have an accurate dinner count.

See you at Skyline Middle School on Tuesday, October 7!

V²CTM Reflection
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**PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH ALL MATHEMATICS TEACHERS,
GRADES K-12**