

THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS (V2CTM)

March 2025

Volume 54, Number 2

Join us for our Spring Conference,



John Almarode:

How To Thrive Under Pressure:

Leveraging Struggle in the Mathematics Classroom



4:30 – 5:00 Registration

5:00 – 5:45 Dinner

catered by White Hill Catering
*Meat Lasagna, Vegetable Lasagna,
Mixed Vegetable Medley, Salad,
Bread, Dessert*

5:45 – 6:00 Business Meeting

Brian Nussbaum, V2CTM President

6:00 – 8:00 John Almarode

*How to Thrive Under Pressure:
Leveraging Struggle in the
Mathematics Classroom*

Conference registration is \$15
(\$5 for students) and
includes a catered dinner.

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Monday,
April 14, 2025

Rocktown High School,
Harrisonburg, VA

Register at
[V2CTMSpring2025](#)
by April 4

There will be numerous
appealing door prizes,
including a set of
Wipebooks!

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V2CTM presents JMU Professor, bestselling author and educational researcher, John Almarode

Let's explore the critical role of struggle in the learning process and uncover strategies to transform it into a powerful tool for growth and resilience! During our time together, we will delve into the concept of struggle, examining its importance in fostering deeper understanding and problem-solving skills in the mathematics classroom. Pulling from the latest research we will learn about the conditions that influence struggle in our classrooms and analyze learning experiences to uncover opportunities for meaningful growth.

Moving from research to reality, we will identify the role of struggle, design supportive learning experiences, and inspire students to see struggle not as a barrier but as a possible bridge to success in mathematics.



When John was 10 years old, he walked down the hallways of Stuarts Draft Middle School to find his locker and classes on what he believed was a normal "back-to-school" night. However, the moment he walked through the door frame of Room 30, he met his sixth-grade science teacher, Ms. Cross. From that moment on, he knew he wanted to be a teacher - not just any teacher, but a teacher as influential as Ms. Cross. That moment in Room 30 where he met Ms. Cross still fuels his drive as a teacher. Yet, his single greatest accomplishment, if asked, is his family. If you have ever worked with John via Zoom, WebEx, Google Meets, or Teams, you have almost certainly met each member of his immediate family through their impromptu cameo appearances. John lives in Waynesboro, Virginia with his wife Danielle, a fellow educator, their two children, Tessa and Jackson, and Labrador retrievers, Bella, Dukes, and Ollie. Oh, and Tessa and Jackson affectionately call Ms. Cross, Grandma Sally.




John is a Professor of Education in the College of Education at James Madison University. He began his career in Augusta County, Virginia, teaching mathematics and science to a wide-range of students. Since then, John has authored multiple articles, reports, book chapters, and books.

News from the Virginia Department of Education



SOL Practice Items


[Updated SOL Practice Items](#) are available for Grades 3-8 and End-of-Course Mathematics tests. These practice items will provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the types of test questions that will be administered to assess the 2023 Mathematics Standards of Learning in spring 2025. These practice item sets include new item types that will be field-tested in spring 2025. Field test items are used to collect data and do not count towards a student's overall test score. Revised resource documents, [Guided Practice Suggestions](#), accompany the updated mathematics practice items to provide specific guidance for teachers or other adults in leading students through the questions.



Math Textbooks and Instructional Materials

At its February 2025 meeting, the Virginia Board of Education approved a list of mathematics textbooks and instructional materials. All documents related to approved textbooks and instructional materials can [be found here](#). Additionally, the Virginia Board of Education will receive for initial review an additional list of recommended Kindergarten - Grade 12 Mathematics Textbooks and Instructional Materials. The list of recommended materials is available for a 30-day public review and comment period. All stakeholders may provide feedback using the link below or by emailing vdoe.mathematics@doe.virginia.gov. It is anticipated that the Board of Education will take final action on the additional list of recommended Kindergarten - Grade 12 Mathematics Textbooks and Instructional Materials at its March 2025 meeting.

[List of Recommended Textbooks and Instructional Materials](#) and [Public Comment Feedback Form](#)



Test Equating

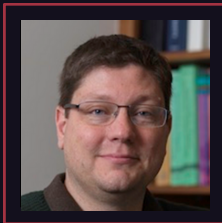
Gr3-8 Reading/Math test forms are pre-equated, so score reporting will not be delayed for these test forms.

EOC Read and EOC A1/G/A2 will require post-equating and scores may be delayed.



Congratulations to the 2025 H. Joe Hill Award Recipient, Chris Willingham

Chris Willingham (willinjc@jmu.edu) is an associate professor in the mathematics department at James Madison University. At JMU he teaches mathematics content courses for preservice teachers and conducts research in teachers' beliefs and attitudes about mathematics and the teaching and learning of mathematics. He holds undergraduate engineering degrees and a master's in mathematics education from Vanderbilt University, as well as a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Mathematics and Science Education from Middle Tennessee State University.



In his early career, Dr. Willingham worked professionally in healthcare, engineering, and construction management before teaching in high-school mathematics and science classrooms in West Tennessee. During his doctoral studies, he transitioned to mathematics teacher education and professional development, which remain his primary interests today. In addition to his teaching and research roles at JMU, he has just completed an editorship with NCTM's *Mathematics Teacher: Learning and Teaching* and a longitudinal professional development program for K-8 mathematics teachers. He is always looking for more collaborative, high-leverage opportunities in these areas.

V2CTM Slate of Officers for 2025-26

At the business meeting on April 14,
the following slate of officers will be presented:

- Secretary: Alexis Stevens, James Madison University
- Board Members: Laurie Biser, Augusta County Public Schools
Kara Lafon, Augusta County Public Schools
Allison Yoder, Harrisonburg City Public Schools



Upcoming Events

VCTM Annual
Conference 2025
June 13-14, 2025

[VCTM website](#)

[VCTM Grants and
Scholarships](#)

Call
for
Presenters
through
4/30

Elementary V2CTM Regional 24 Challenge Tournament

Join us on Tuesday, April 8 at
Wilson Middle School for a
night of challenge and excitement!

Click [HERE](#)

to register an elementary school
team of 4 players and up to 2
alternates by Thursday, March 27.
For more information, please email
Laurie Biser, the
24-Tournament Coordinator
lbiser@augusta.k12.va.us

VATLL (formerly VASCD) and VCMS are partnering to bring
you a [Math is Figureoutable](#) Conference on
July 15th and 16th in Chesterfield, VA.

2024-2025 V2CTM Officers

President..... Brian Nussbaum, Harrisonburg City (bnussbaum@harrisonburg.k12.va.us)
President-Elect.....Amanda Rickard, Rockingham County (arickard@rockingham.k12.va.us)
VCTM/NCTM RepresentativeJenny Gibson, James Madison University (gibso2js@jmu.edu)
SecretaryAlexis Stevens, James Madison University (stevenal@jmu.edu)
Treasurer.....John (Zig) Siegfried, James Madison University (siegfrjm@jmu.edu)
Newsletter Editor.....Laurie Biser, Augusta County (lbiser@augusta.k12.va.us)
24 Challenge Coordinator.....Laurie Biser, Augusta County (lbiser@augusta.k12.va.us)
Webmaster.....Amanda Rickard, Rockingham County (arickard@rockingham.k12.va.us)

Board Members:

HS Representatives: Lori Henderson, Waynesboro City (lhenderson@waynesboro.k12.va.us);
Kara Lafon, Augusta County (klafon@augusta.k12.va.us)
MS Representatives: Michelle Freed, Staunton City (mfreed@staunton.k12.va.us);
Allison Yoder, Harrisonburg City (ayoder@harrisonburg.k12.va.us)
ES representatives: Laurie Biser, Augusta County (lbiser@augusta.k12.va.us);
Amy Henderson, Harrisonburg City (ahenderson@harrisonburg.k12.va.us)

V2CTM Fall 2025 Conference Registration

To register, please access the online registration form at

[V2CTMSpring2025](#) by April 4.

The conference fee of \$15.00 will be collected
at the door on April 14.

Please complete your registration no later than April 4 so we will
have an accurate dinner count. If you register after the deadline,
you may miss out on a delicious dinner.

We look forward to seeing you at Rocktown High School
on Monday, April 14!

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH ALL
CURRENT AND PRE-SERVICE
MATHEMATICS TEACHERS,
GRADES PreK-12