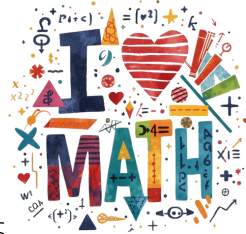


THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS (V²CTM)

**Join us for this year's V²CTM Spring Conference,
"Building Math Communities and Positive Mathematical Identities"**

Date: Monday, April 13, 2026
Location: Rocktown High School
[2970 East Kaylor Park Drive,
Harrisonburg, VA](#)



Register at [V²CTMSpring2026](#) by April 6.
Conference registration is \$15
(\$5 for students),
payable by cash or check at
the door, and includes a catered dinner.

Doors open at 4:30
4:30 – 5:00 Registration
5:00 – 5:45 Dinner catered by
White Hill Catering
(Meat Lasagna with Marinara,
Vegetable Lasagna with Alfredo,
Mixed Vegetable Medley,
Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert,
Sweetened/Unsweetened Tea and Water)

5:45 – 6:00 Business Meeting: Amanda Rickard,
V²CTM President

There will be numerous appealing door prizes!

6:00 – 8:00 "Building Math Communities and
Positive Mathematical Identities"

FEATURED PRESENTERS & EVENT SESSIONS

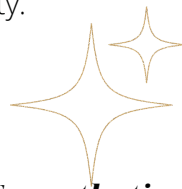
V²CTM is pleased to present elementary and secondary sessions led by classroom teachers who are actively building strong mathematics learning environments. These sessions highlight practical strategies for building math communities, with a focus on fostering belonging, collaboration, and confidence in mathematics for all students. Presenters will share classroom-tested ideas and instructional approaches that support student voice, rich mathematical discourse, and the development of positive math identities.



Makenzie DeLea

**Elementary Session ~ From Morning Meeting to
Real-World Math: Building Community & Identity**

Makenzie DeLea is a dedicated third-grade teacher who fosters an engaging, supportive classroom focused on academic and emotional growth while building strong relationships, collaborating with colleagues, and contributing to the broader education community.



Kate Dougherty

**Elementary Session ~ Empowered and Empathetic:
Strategies for developing a safe and loving
mathematical community.**

Kate Dougherty is an experienced elementary educator and leader who is dedicated to inclusive, empathetic instruction and believes all students can learn and thrive.

Amanda Haynes

**Secondary Session ~ Growing a
Math Community: A Blueprint for
Belonging**

Amanda Haynes is an experienced middle school math teacher and instructional leader who is dedicated to making math engaging and accessible while fostering a supportive classroom where all students feel valued, confident, and capable of success.

Morgan Tippet

**Secondary Session ~
Tools for Teaching**

Morgan Tippet is a middle school math teacher and team lead who is dedicated to student-centered instruction and creating a supportive, empowering environment where students can build confidence and succeed academically and personally.

Congrats!

Congratulations to the
2026 H. Joe Hill Award Recipient,
April Buckmaster

April Buckmaster is an Instructional Technology Resource Teacher and New Teacher Mentor for Rockingham County Public Schools. She holds a B.A. from SUNY Brockport, along with an M.Ed. as a K-8 Mathematics Specialist and a Teacher Leadership Certificate from JMU. In the classroom, April prioritized mathematical discourse and student writing to help learners connect isolated strategies to the “big ideas” in mathematics. In her current role, she collaborates with educators to integrate technology into the math curriculum and supports first-year teachers in implementing conceptual thinking tasks. April is actively involved in RCPS curriculum development and is passionate about helping new educators hone their own expertise to foster confident communities of learners within their own mathematics classrooms.



VCTM Annual Conference 2026
June 26-27, 2026
[Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics - 2026 Conference](#)
[VCTM Grants and Scholarships](#)

CTLG collaborates with schools and districts to improve instruction, leadership, and learning systems. See [CTLG](#) for upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

News from the Virginia Department of Education

Performance Level Descriptors

The performance level descriptors (PLD) for the Standards of Learning tests convey the knowledge and skills associated with each performance (achievement) level. [Available here](#), they indicate the content-area knowledge and skills that students achieving at a certain level are expected to demonstrate based upon the SOL and Curriculum Framework or Instructional Guides. These descriptors may guide educators and parents in understanding the type of student performance required for each achievement level.

Mathematics Reminders

[SOL Practice Items and Guided Practice Suggestions](#) were updated in January 2025 for alignment to the 2023 Mathematics SOL. The item sets include all innovative item types which may be included in students' operational tests.

[Just in Time Quick Checks](#) formative assessments are now aligned to the 2023 Mathematics Standards of Learning. These resources are designed to help teachers identify students with unfinished learning, assist in planning instruction to fill potential gaps, and address acceleration needs “just in time.”

Elementary V²CTM Regional 24 Challenge Tournament

Join us on Tuesday, April 7 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 26.

For more information, please email Laurie Biser, the 24-Tournament Coordinator (lbiser@augusta.k12.va.us)



V²CTM Slate of Officers for 2026-27

At the business meeting on April 13, the following slate of officers will be presented:

- President Elect: Alexis Stevens, James Madison University
- Board Members: Amy Henderson, Harrisonburg City Public Schools
 - Michelle Freed, Staunton City
 - Rene Leetun, Redeemer Classical
 - Jennie Carr, Bridgewater College
- John (Zig) Siegfried, James Madison University

2025-2026 V²CTM Officers

President.....Amanda Rickard, Rockingham County (arickard@rockingham.k12.va.us)
Past President.....Brian Nussbaum, Harrisonburg City (bnussbaum@harrisonburg.k12.va.us)
VCTM/NCTM RepresentativeJenny Gibson, James Madison University (gibsozjs@jmu.edu)
SecretaryAlexis Stevens, James Madison University (stevenal@jmu.edu)
Treasurer.....John (Zig) Siegfried, James Madison University (siegfrijm@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: Rene Leetun, Redeemer Classical (rleetun@redeemerclassical.org);
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)

Are you interested in serving on the V²CTM Board?

To nominate yourself—or a willing colleague—just speak to any Board member!



V²CTM Spring 2026 Conference Registration

To register, please access the online registration form at [V²CTMSpring2026](#) by April 6.

The conference fee of \$15.00 will be collected at the door on April 13 (cash or check).

Please complete your registration no later than April 6 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 13!

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH ALL
CURRENT & PRE-SERVICE MATHEMATICS EDUCATORS,
GRADES PreK-12, HIGHER ED, AND ADMINISTRATORS

