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LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE FOR THE
MATHEMATICS EDUCATORS OF WISCONSIN

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NEWSLETTER



MEASURING Mathematical Proficiency

Wisconsin Mathematics Council

47th Annual Conference
May 7-8, 2015

Pre-conference • May 6, 2015
Green Lake Conference Center • Green Lake, WI

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MEASURING MATHEMATICAL PROFICIENCY

Save the date for the 47th Wisconsin Mathematics Council Annual Conference. We hope that you are able to attend this exciting annual event in order to collaborate with over 1,400 mathematics teachers on May 6-8, 2015. Since 47 is the fifteenth prime number (and this is the 2015 conference), here are the first five (of 15) prime ways to re-energize the teaching and learning of mathematics across the state.

1. **Nationally Recognized Keynote Speakers.** This year's line-up of keynote speakers will be sure to re-energize your teaching and learning of mathematics.

- ♦ **Karim Ani** is the Founder of Mathalicious, which is transforming the way math is taught by providing middle and high school teachers with authentic math lessons.
- ♦ **Sandy Atkins**, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of Creating AHAs, LLC and has extensive experience working with mathematical interventions at all levels.
- ♦ **Jennifer Bay-Williams**, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Mathematics Education at the University of Louisville (Kentucky) and author of many articles and books focused on the teaching and learning of mathematics.
- ♦ **Jo Boaler**, Ph.D., is a Professor of Mathematics Education at Stanford University and author of several books and research articles including her latest books that focus on increasing public understanding of the importance of good mathematics teaching.
- ♦ **Rosemary Irons**, BA, MSED, is a consultant and curriculum developer for mathematics education specializing in early childhood.
- ♦ **Eli Luberoff**, is the CEO of Desmos, which is a free online tool that fosters exploration and discovery of mathematics.

2. **Wednesday Evening IGNITE Session.** Back again for the fifth time, these quick and lively five-minute presentations will jump-start your conference. Join local and national presenters as they ignite their own passion for mathematics education.

3. **Exhibit Hall.** Take a break in between sessions and stroll through a variety of exhibits as you explore current resources and new curriculum materials for teaching mathematics.

4. **WMC Thursday "Celebrate WMC" Reception & Awards Ceremony.** Come mingle with your colleagues at this evening event, held at the Green Lake Conference Center, while you entice your taste buds with delicious and delightful hors d'oeuvres. Join current teachers, pre-service teachers, and future teachers in a short awards ceremony that celebrates mathematics education.

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Information and links to other websites that appear in the WMC Newsletter are offered as a resource to our members. No endorsement is implied.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



We are continually seeing changes in the landscape where we are charged with educating children. The 2014-15 school year brings us the implementation of two major initiatives in every public school across the state of Wisconsin. The state math assessment will now measure student proficiency of the Common Core State Standards that have been implemented over the past four years. Educators will also experience a new assessment system for measuring their effectiveness as an educator.

The release of *Principles to Actions: Ensuring Mathematical Success for All* by NCTM in the spring of 2014 provides essential information for mathematics educators that will allow us to address both initiatives at the same time. A major portion of this publication focuses on effective teaching and learning practices that research indicates needs to occur regularly in the mathematics classroom. The book identifies eight Mathematical Teaching Practices that, if accomplished, would lead to improved success for students and teachers in their respective assessment systems.

The Wisconsin Mathematics Council is focusing on concrete, actionable changes that will directly impact student learning in the classroom. We have selected to focus on the following Mathematical Teaching Practices, and we assert they will give teachers excellent leverage in relation to changes in both student and educator assessment:

- ♦ Facilitate meaningful mathematical discourse
- ♦ Pose purposeful questions
- ♦ Elicit and use evidence of student thinking

Driven by these three practices, WMC's fall *Mathematics Proficiency for Every Student* Conference is designed to give teachers the capacity to take action using highly effective strategies when they return to their classroom. We are excited to provide math educators with the opportunity to examine and create classroom structures that will actively engage the students. The conference will also provide opportunities for teachers to collaborate and experience quality formative assessment practices that will positively impact the learning environment in their classrooms.

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WISCONSIN TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS SPRING 2015 JOURNAL

The Spring 2015 issue of the *Wisconsin Mathematics Teacher* will focus on how educators have embedded the Standards for Mathematical Practice into their classroom. The editorial panel would like to showcase examples of rich mathematics tasks and activities that engage students in the habits of mind that we seek to develop in students. We are interested in articles that address the following essential questions:

- ♦ What tasks or activities have you implemented that focus uniquely on one or more Standards for Mathematical Practice?
- ♦ How do you help your students understand the meaning of the Standards for Mathematical Practice?
- ♦ How do you assess students' proficiency in the Standards for Mathematical Practice?

If you have ideas or questions for this focus issue or wish to submit an article for review, please visit the WMC website for more information (www.wismath.org/resources/). Please see instructions to the right on how to submit your article(s).

Wisconsin Teacher of Mathematics, the official journal of the Wisconsin Mathematics Council, is published twice a year. Annual WMC membership includes a one-year subscription to this journal and to the *Wisconsin Mathematics Council Newsletter*.

The *Wisconsin Teacher of Mathematics* is a forum for the exchange of ideas. Opinions expressed in this journal are those of the authors and may not necessarily reflect those of the Council or editorial staff.

Submissions are welcome! E-mail a copy of your manuscript to the journal editor at wmc@wismath.org.

- ♦ Send an electronic copy of your manuscript to the Wisconsin Mathematics Council. Manuscripts may be submitted at any time for review.
- ♦ Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced.
- ♦ Include all figures and photos in .jpg format; submit high resolution copies of figures and student work. Please do not place figures or photos within the document; rather indicate their placement in the document, e.g., Figure 1 here.
- ♦ All fractions need to be formatted as follows— $\frac{2}{3}$. *Do not accept auto formatting of fractions.*
- ♦ All manuscripts are subject to a review process. Include name, address, telephone, email, work affiliation and position.

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The deadline for the Spring issue is January 31, 2015.



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5. Presentations and Interactive Workshops. With close to 200 sessions to choose from, you will have ample opportunities to learn multiple strategies to support student learning and measure their mathematical proficiency.

We hope you save the date for this prime 47th WMC Annual Conference!

Jennifer Kosiak and Maggie McHugh
Conference Program Co-Chairs

UPDATES FROM THE WMC BOARD SUMMER RETREAT

The WMC Board of Directors held its 2014 Summer Retreat on June 30 & July 1 at the Holiday Inn at the American Center in Madison. Meeting highlights included:

- ♦ Welcomed our new board members, Lori Williams, Manitowoc Public School District, Amy Traynor, DeLong Middle School, Eau Claire, and Jonathon Zabel, Madison Middle School, Appleton.
- ♦ Created WMC's strategic plan for the 2014-2015 school year and beyond, focusing on the redesign of WMC's website, improving current and creating new professional learning opportunities, and offering a pilot community forum on mathematics education.
- ♦ Provided updates on the MPES (Mathematics Proficiency for Every Student) conferences, ELEE (Effective Leaders, Effective Educators) conferences, WMC Annual Conference, WMEF (Wisconsin Mathematics Education Foundation), and DPI initiatives.

We are looking forward to another great school year providing and leading quality mathematics education for all teachers and students in Wisconsin!

YOUR WMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Get to know the members of the WMC Board of Directors. A different Board member is featured in each issue. We hope you enjoy learning about your WMC Board!

Name and Title	Sue Popelka, Statewide Representative
Position	Mathematics teacher at River Falls High School for the past 17 years where I teach Calculus and AP Calculus.
Experience	I am currently a mathematics teacher. Prior to that I was an optical engineer in medical diagnostic instrumentation for 10 years and a college physics and astronomy instructor for 19 years. I hold two patents; wrote two articles in <i>Journal of the Optical Society of America</i> , <i>Clinical Chemistry</i> , and am the author of two hands-on science books for the middle grades.
Education	BS in Math and Physics from UW-Whitewater; MS in Optical Engineering, Rochester University; teacher certification, UW-River Falls.
Family	Married to Carl for 38 years—he teaches Accounting at UW-River Falls; daughter Erin, 31, MBA student at Cornell; son Mike, 28, mechanical engineer at Twin Cities refinery; daughter, Gail, 23, RN in Madison.
Personal Interests	I like to learn how to do things, especially anything having to do with technology. I am a proud geek. Also like to read mysteries, work in the yard, and take car trips with my husband.

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The *Math Proficiency for Every Student* Conference will be held in two locations to better accommodate teachers in different regions of the state. Please visit this link for more information regarding dates, locations, and times. <http://www.wismath.org/professional-development/>.

I look forward to seeing many of you at one of the upcoming conferences!

Doug Burge, WMC President 2013-2015

JO BOALER TO LEAD WMC LEADERSHIP PRE-CONFERENCE

The WMC Conference Planning Committee is pleased to announce that Jo Boaler, Professor of Mathematics Education at Stanford University and creator of YouCubed.org, will be leading the 2015 leadership pre-conference session at the WMC Annual Conference in Green Lake. The pre-conference is scheduled for May 6, 2015, and more details about the all day session will be shared when they are available. Keep checking the WMC website www.wismath.org.



2014-15 WMC Board of Directors,
back row, L to R,
K. McLeod, D. Pass,
J. Korth, J. Zabel,
B. Borgwardt, T.
Pickar, B. Walker.
Front Row, L to R,
M. Parks, A. Traynor,
L. Williams,
J. Kosiak, W. Meyer,
D. Burge, K. Davis,
S. Popelka



STARTING ON A POSITIVE NOTE

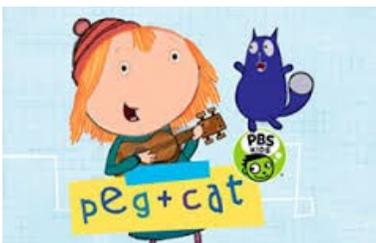
As we start the school year and begin planning for a positive mathematics classroom environment, take the seven messages, from Dr. Jo Boaler, Stanford University, to mind.

- Everyone can learn math to the highest levels
- Mistakes are valuable
- Questions are really important
- Math is about creativity and making sense
- Math is about connections and communicating
- Math class is about learning and not performing
- Depth is more important than speed

Setting up Positive Norms in Math Class, found at <http://youcubed.org/teachers/category/back-to-school/>, offers succinct guidelines for the above seven habits when considering engaging students in rich content focused learning and setting up pedagogical routines from day one. Each message is described in further detail with video examples and practical suggestions for immediate classroom practice.

Note: Dr. Boaler will be a keynote speaker at the 2015 WMC Annual Conference in Green Lake!

WMC UNDERWRITES PEG+CAT



WMC was told that PBS cancelled **Cyberchase**, the once popular mathematics-themed children's program, late this spring. In response, the WMC Board approved moving its

underwriting support to **Peg+Cat**, a new mathematics-themed program for younger children.

The show was developed in collaboration with NCTM and is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, and features Peg, a young girl who wears a red hat and blue dress. She explains the situation in each episode, announces when they have "a big problem", and reasons out solutions to math-related problems. Cat is Peg's best friend and accompanies Peg on her adventures. Cat often inspires Peg to realize a solution to a problem without being aware of it himself.

Peg+Cat is produced by The Fred Rogers Company, and it debuted on most PBS stations in October 2013.

Good teachers know how to bring out the best in students. — Charles Kuralt

2014 MPES CONFERENCES

The Math Proficiency for Every Student conferences (MPES) are scheduled for November 13th and 14th in Wausau, and December 11th and 12th in Oconomowoc. This year's theme is Understanding Student Thinking. The first day at each location will focus on fostering student discourse structures. The second day's focus is on understanding the formative assessment process and its connection to SLOs.

We have a great selection of keynote speakers, including William Barnes, John SanGiovanni, Jennifer Novak and Cheryl Tobey.

William Barnes is coordinator of secondary mathematics for the Howard County Public School System in Maryland. He is also co-founder of Core Challenge and an adjunct professor for several universities.

Jennifer Novak is a resource teacher for the Howard County public schools in Maryland. She has been a member of the curriculum development team for Algebra I and has served as the lead for the Algebra II writing team. She has presented at county in-services and the N.S.A. Mathematics Symposium, and has co-presented at the Governor's Academy in Maryland.

John SanGiovanni is an elementary mathematics supervisor in Howard County, Maryland. John is an author, professor, consultant, and frequent speaker at local and national conferences.

Cheryl Tobey is a senior mathematics associate at Education Development Center (EDC) in Massachusetts. She is the project director for Formative Assessment in the Mathematics Classroom: Engaging Teachers and Students (FACETS) and a mathematics specialist for Differentiated Professional Development: Building Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching Struggling Students (DPD); both projects are funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Her work is primarily in the areas of formative assessment and professional development. She has authored several books including the Uncovering Student Thinking series (2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2014) and Mathematics Formative Assessment: 75 Practical Strategies for Linking Assessment, Instruction and Learning (2011).

We are also pleased to have a great selection of speakers for our breakout sessions. They will be extending each day's theme by sharing their own and district's experiences with discourse structures, formative assessment and connecting to SLOs.

We hope that you will join us for this great professional development opportunity. For more information or to register, please visit the WMC website — www.wismath.org.



WMEF NEWS

The Wisconsin Mathematics Education Foundation (WMEF) held its Board of Directors meeting on July 22. Mary Walz has agreed to chair the WMEF Awards program, coordinating the efforts of the scholarships and grants committees as well as overseeing several committees for WMEF. The Board also discussed and approved four WMEF grants within the new program introduced in May.

Grant recipients include **Mary Rumpel** from Ellsworth High School, who received a \$1,500 professional development grant for her “**Core Standards for ALL**” project. Mary’s district has been working to incorporate the Common Core State Standards into their high school classes; their students need more practice with modeling and using tools. One of the goals is for every student to have access to a graphing calculator, but currently, the school does not have enough. The grant will be used to purchase graphing calculators, and the faculty will be developing more lessons that use technology. Mary plans to report the results of her work at the WMC Annual Conference in 2015.

Jennifer Freckmann from Benjamin Franklin School in Milwaukee received a \$500 student activities grant. Students at her school often spend recess time indoors because of inclement weather. The “**Math Playground**” project grant will purchase supplies for approximately 50 students in 2nd and 3rd grade to spend their recess doing high quality mathematics instructional tasks. Jennifer plans to share the results of her grant in an article for *Wisconsin Teacher of Mathematics* or the *WMC Newsletter*.

Christopher Collins from Monticello High School received a \$225 extracurricular activities grant. The “**Monticello International Math Exchange**” will facilitate students working and learning with students in Cuneo, Italy. The school has SMART Boards and SMART Bridgit conferencing software but needs improved web cams so students can have face-to-face interaction. The exchanges will take place at 7:00 a.m. in the U.S. and at 2:00 p.m. in Italy, both outside of the normal school day. Students will be learning that there are many different methods and approaches than can be used to solve the same problem. Chris plans to report on his grant at the 2015 WMC Annual Conference and through WMC publications.

Tamie Gundrum from Edna Ferber School in Appleton received a \$500 professional development grant for her project, “**AVRM Course 1.**” Tamie is taking the Add+Vantage Math Recovery (AVRM) program, a

unique approach to professional development, assessment and teaching in mathematics, designed to provide teachers with efficient and effective assessment tools to recognize their students’ understanding of number concepts and to support data-driven instruction. Tamie will apply what she has learned while teaching third graders this fall, and she will share her experiences with others in her school district in an effort to help struggling students. Tamie plans to write an article for WMC sharing her grant results.

NCWIT COMPUTING AWARD

The National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing honors young women active and interested in computing and encourages them to pursue their passion for technology. The competition for the 2014-2015 NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing is open to any U.S. high-school-level female (grades 9-12). To register for the competition or for more information visit <https://www.aspirations.org/user/register>. The application deadline is November 2, 2014, and national awardees will be announced around December 10, 2014.



WMC’S NEW WEBSITE—NEW LOOK!

WMC’s been busy this summer developing its new website, and we’re almost ready for the reveal. We’re going “live” on September 30th, and some new features you’ll find will include:

- Interactive calendar of events
- Option to update your membership information
- Renew membership and register online
- And much more!



WMC MATH CONTEST COMING



The 2015 State Mathematics Contests, sponsored by WMC, includes contests for both middle and high school students. Schools take part in the contest at their home sites, and each school chooses the day the team will

participate.

Registration for the contests will open in late January 2015. Past contests, solutions and more information are posted on the WMC website <http://www.wismath.org/resources/math-contests/>.



DPI UPDATE



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Please visit the DPI website (see individual links below) for more information about the following:

State Superintendent's Letter to District Administrators on Common Core State Standards

State Superintendent Tony Evers issued a statement on the recent discussions of the Common Core State Standards. Superintendent Evers is calling on district administrators to remain "focused on doing what's best for our kids and their education." Read Dr. Evers' letter in its entirety here: <http://commoncore.dpi.wi.gov/files/commoncore/pdf/evers-07-14-14.pdf>.

Changes to Graduation Requirements (2013 Act 63) - Guidance

On December 11, 2013, Act 63 was enacted by the legislature and signed by the governor. This new statute specifically changes the requirements for graduation in the areas of mathematics and science. The new law raises the graduation requirement in both academic subjects from two credits to three credits. The new requirements also provide options for students to earn mathematics and science credits through career and technical education (CTE) and computer science courses. These changes will first apply to high school diplomas granted to students in the 2016-17 school year.

With this change in graduation requirements, DPI has released a guidance document for districts to use as they make decisions about course offerings in light of this new legislation. This guidance document is intended to be used in local district planning discussions to prepare for the new graduation requirement for all students intending to graduate during or after the 2016-17 school year, to successfully earn three credits of mathematics and three credits of science. The document can be found at the DPI website: http://cal.dpi.wi.gov/cal_grad-guidance.

New Family Resources

New family resources have been developed by Wisconsin DPI to help parents in supporting their child's mathematics and literacy learning and development. These LiveBinders contain video clips, lessons, and Common Core resources to help parents understand what their child may be experiencing in the mathematics or literacy classroom. These resources can be found under the "Family" tab on the DPI Common Core website at: <http://standards.dpi.wi.gov/families/families>. To go along with the new family resources, DPI offers

resources to aid administrators in communicating with parents about academic standards. These resources can be found at: <http://standards.dpi.wi.gov/instr-leader/instructional-leader>.

WMC TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Jane Howell, WMC Historian

Nineteen eighty-nine was an important year for mathematics education. In that year, *Wisconsin Teacher of Mathematics* transitioned from being a newsletter to a professional journal, and the *WMC Newsletter* became a separate publication. The fall 1989 issue was extensive and contained a great deal of important information.

1989 was the roll out year for the NCTM Standards. Bruce Williamson, WMC President during this time, titled his Presidential message, "Issues of the Nineties." He wrote about *Everybody Counts* and the recently published *NCTM Curriculum and Standards for School Mathematics*. The nineties were to be the decade of the Standards, and he cited a number of recent disclosures about the necessity of mathematics for employment.

Don Chambers, then DPI Mathematics Consultant, wrote an extensive article, "A New Vision of Mathematics Teaching," that discussed the NCTM Teaching Standards. He included the following quote,

"Students' engagement with the tasks involves discourse. Discourse refers to the action and interaction surrounding those tasks and encompasses fundamental issues about knowledge – about what makes an answer right, what counts as legitimate mathematical activity and thinking." (NCTM, 1989)

Don continued to write about the Standards for Professional Development of Teachers, and Standards for Evaluation of Teachers of Mathematics. Much of what he had to say is still very relevant today.

Other items in the issue included:

- ♦ Elizabeth Fennema was named the 1989 Distinguished Mathematics Educator, the 20th person to be so honored.
- ♦ Jane Lepak and Roberta Christie received WMC scholarships
- ♦ A position paper (from Texas Math Supervisors) on *Calculators on the Exit Level Teams Test*
- ♦ Teaching tips and lesson plans for elementary, middle and high school classrooms.
- ♦ ARML from a freshmen's point of view
- ♦ An article, "Implementing the Standards in the Waukesha Schools," by Connie Laughlin

(continued on page 7)



NEWS FROM NCTM



NCTM Regional Conferences—Now and Later



This year's NCTM regional conference will be in Indianapolis, Indiana – October 29-31, 2014. Please click on this link <http://www.nctm.org/regionals/> for more information and to register.

Thousands of educators make presentations every year at NCTM conferences. Share your teaching ideas and practices by presenting a session at one of the 2015 regional conferences. Click on <http://nctm.confex.com/nctm/demo/cfp.cgi> to submit your proposal by September 30, 2014.

MET Grants Available

The Mathematics Education Trust (MET) was established by NCTM to fund special projects to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics. Classroom teachers can apply for a grant that provides funds to support them in improving classroom practices and increasing their mathematical knowledge. For more information, please click on this link: <http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?amp;langtype=1033&id=198>.

Principals to Action

Several webcasts on *Principles to Actions* are available to download from the 2014 NCTM Annual Meeting, including:

- What's Exciting About NCTM's New Blueprint?
- Actions to Improve Curriculum and Assessment Practices
- Effective Teaching
- What It Takes
- Defining Core Practices of Teaching Mathematics
- Mathematics with Equity - For ALL
- Implications for High School Mathematics

For more information, visit the NCTM website at <http://www.nctm.org/conferences/content.aspx?id=41981>.

The one exclusive sign of thorough knowledge is the power of teaching.
— Aristotle

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- An editorial by Tom Carpenter
- An article, "National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Releases Standards for School Curriculum and Evaluation," by Henry Kepner
- *Mathematics Curriculum and Articulation Report* of the Wisconsin Section of the MAA and WMC
- An article, "Beyond Standardized Testing," by Henry Kepner
- An article, "The Myth, Reality and Promise of the Computer in the Classroom," by Robert E. Ritchhart, University of Denver

The fall 1989 issue seemed to be especially extensive with many articles because of the recent release of the NCTM Standards for School Curriculum Evaluation. These standards were the first that were developed by anyone. Then, as well as now, mathematics teachers in the nation and Wisconsin were leading the way.

ROUNDING UP: NCTM'S MEMBER REFERRAL PROGRAM

Rounding Up is NCTM's new member referral program, an opportunity for you to refer colleagues and friends for NCTM membership—and, in return, receive great gifts and prizes. With your help, your non-profit membership association can grow to the next level, help more people, serve you even better, and be a stronger advocate for mathematics education.

Your very first referral (and every one thereafter) enters your name in our prize drawing for a free trip to NCTM's 2016 annual meeting in San Francisco or an Apple iPad. With your second referral, you'll receive \$5 in NCTM bucks to spend on resources, conferences, or membership renewal from NCTM. Accumulate more bucks with every two referrals, plus receive *additional* gifts (like VISA gift cards) for reaching 10, 15, and 20 new members and being our top recruiter.

It only takes a few moments to participate and the rewards add up quickly. This year's program runs through June 30, 2015. For more information, please visit <http://www.nctm.org/membership/content.aspx?id=8948>.

Not an NCTM member? Join today to enjoy great member benefits (including exclusive resources) plus the rewards of participating in the member referral program. To join please visit <https://www.nctm.org/profile/login.aspx>.

When renewing your WMC membership, don't forget to renew your NCTM membership, too!



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