

Mathematics in Vermont

The newsletter for Vermont's Mathematics Educators and supporters

October 2017

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Welcome

Mathematics in Vermont is a newsletter designed to be an effective way to communicate with the field. The goal of this Agency of Education (AOE) Mathematics newsletter is to:

- Connect teachers in a learning community
- Keep educators informed of AOE news
- Address areas which require support
- Develop and share high quality resources

The ways you can access this newsletter:

- Request subscription by emailing [Heidi Whipple](#); your name will be added to a listserv
- The *AOE Weekly Field Memo* when issues are published

The purpose of this issue of *Mathematics in Vermont* is to set the tone and establish the lines of communication. I am planning to publish the newsletter bi-monthly, (September – June on the even months) and hope the information is relevant and useful to your work. I am asking for submissions such as narratives, events, units of study, resources, Q & A, and, most importantly, successes and student work! You can find instructions for submission requests at the end of this newsletter. Have a great start to the school year and feel free to contact me.

Check Out Revisions to the Mathematics Content Page and Other Resources on the AOE Website

There is an amazing amount of supportive information on the AOE website.

- On the [mathematics content](#) page, there is a new [resources](#) document link. There are some good resources for various grade levels on that page.
- On the [Proficiency-Based Learning](#) page, there are many links to informative documents created by the AOE to support teachers, schools, and the community. These links are located further down the page so keep scrolling down to the bulleted list of resources.
- [Key Characteristics of a Proficiency-Based System of Education](#) is a valuable tool for schools to be used to open up discussions about changing school systems.
- [What is Proficiency-Based Learning?](#) is a document created by AOE staff that has many linked resources as well as a Proficiency-Based glossary of terms used frequently in education.
- The [Education Quality Standards](#) (EQS) are the Vermont State Board of Education manual of rules and practices. The EQS states, “The purpose of these rules is to ensure that all students in Vermont public schools are afforded educational opportunities that are substantially equal in quality, and enable them to achieve or exceed the standards approved by the State Board of Education.”
- There is a search box in the top right-hand corner of every page on the AOE website that can be very helpful. Type in keywords to facilitate your search.

Vermont Council of Teachers of Mathematics Fall Conference 2017

On Monday, October 16, 2017, the Vermont Council of Teachers of Mathematics (VCTM) had their fall conference at St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT. There were many fantastic sessions including ones that centered on topics such as mathematical discourse, interdisciplinary high school courses, and intervention provided through financial literacy. Throughout many sessions, participants shared their concerns about shifting to a proficiency-based learning system in their schools. The topics of proficiency-based grading, current grading platforms, and PBGRs came up as being challenges for implementation. Participants also shared the innovations that their schools and teachers are developing to overcome these challenges.

Making connections with other educators across SU/SD/UDs can open up conversations to share solutions, successes, and struggles. A big thanks to VCTM for arranging this amazing opportunity for Vermont mathematics educators to get together and share their work. If you want to become a member of [VCTM go to their website](#) for more information.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a K-12 mathematics or science (including engineering and computer science) teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. The PAEMST program authorizes the President to bestow up to 108 awards each year. Awards are given to two teachers from each state, districts, commonwealths and territories.

This year's award will be going to outstanding K-6 teachers. The award recognizes excellence in teachers who develop and implement high-quality instructional program that is informed by content knowledge and enhances student learning. The National Science Foundation (NSF) administers PAEMST on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Some of the awards recipients receive:

- A paid trip to Washington, D.C., to attend recognition events
- A \$10,000 award from the NSF
- An opportunity to build partnerships with colleagues across the nation

Consider applying (you can nominate yourself) or nominating an outstanding Vermont educator today! For more information, please visit [the PAEMST website](#).

Events, Announcements and Resources

#VTOpen

#VTOpen is Vermont's group for sharing open education resources. The AOE established a formal partnership with OER (Open Educational Resources) Commons in the spring of 2017 expressly for this purpose. Working with a group of dedicated VT Ambassadors, VT schools are encouraged to use the #VTOpen as a repository for digital resources. This will allow VT educators to share resources that are created by fellow Vermonters both regionally and across the state.

In addition, all Vermonters are encouraged to explore the wealth of resources beyond Vermont borders and to engage with fellow educators across the globe who are also trying to establish the sharing and dissemination of OER. For more information, please visit the [#VTOpen page](#).

Events:

- **ATMNE Conference 2017.** The Association of Teachers of Mathematics of New England (ATMNE) is having their annual conference November 2-3 in Marlboro, MA. Common Sense Math for All. The fall conference features a 2 day program with speakers from PreK-12+ and brings together teachers of mathematics from the New England area. Some Vermont teachers will be presenting there this year. Register for the [ATMNE Conference](#).
- **VCTM Statewide Math Fair 2018.** The Vermont Council of Teachers of Mathematics (VCTM) is sponsoring a Mathematics Fair for student projects. All Vermont students are eligible to enter. The fair will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT. [Register for the VCTM Mathematics Fair](#). Registration deadline is February 15, 2018. Contact: kwestby@wsesu.org or jkendrew@materchristischool.net

- **Communication and Representation in Mathematics: Sharing Mathematical Thinking in the Primary Grades**

Audience: Teachers, Teacher Leaders, Instructional coaches

This 2-day workshop will focus on the importance of communication and representation in mathematics; methods for supporting and encouraging young children’s communication and representation skills; and ways to support the transition from using informal language and representations to using more formal and conventional forms of mathematical representations including equations and charts. During this 2-day workshop participants will:

- Review current and relevant research on effective communication and representation in mathematics.
- Explore the developmental stages young children move through as they communicate and represent their understandings.
- Investigate effective instructional methods to support growth over time.

This 2-day workshop is being offered in two locations—Springfield (Holiday Inn Express) on November 2 and December 6, and Richmond (Richmond Congregational Church) on November 3 and December 8. You can register by clicking on this link, [Register Now](#) and following the instructions. Payment is due at the time of registering so please have billing information available including a purchase order number or your check number if you are paying using a personal checking account.

Contact: Loree Silvis at lsilvis@cornerstonemathematics.com

Resources:

- [Weekly Field Memo \(WFM\)](#): The field memo is the weekly communication from the Vermont AOE to the education community. Usually sent midweek by email, the WFM is designed to keep subscribers up-to-date with current education policy, statewide education initiatives, and official messages from the AOE. The WFM is also a venue for AOE teams to share critical and time sensitive information. You may subscribe, unsubscribe, and update your email address for the [WFM online](#).
- Free! [Self-Paced courses](#) on Vermont AOE website.
 - Developing and Applying Proficiencies in a Proficiency-Based, Personalized System
 - Practices in Personalized, Proficiency-Based Learning
- [Proficiency-Based Learning](#) webpage

Directions for Submissions: If you would like to submit an article, announcement, event, or resource for a future newsletter, please email information to heidi.whipple@vermont.gov. This newsletter will be published bi-monthly (even months). Time sensitive materials will be prioritized but check the dates to see if the bi-monthly publication will delay the sharing of information.

Author: Heidi Whipple
Mathematics Specialist
Proficiency-Based Learning
Team
Vermont Agency of Education
219 N. Main St., Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641
heidi.whipple@vermont.gov
802-479-1379

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Vermont e-bulletin, write to
heidi.whipple@vermont.gov
or call (802) 479-1379