



Wahpe Woyaka pi

(Talking Leaf)

South Dakota Council Teachers of Mathematics Newsletter

Presidential Ponderings

We have now closed the books on the 2014-2015 school year. Although the year is already history, I still can't believe how fast it went. It seems like just yesterday I was setting out books and getting icebreakers ready for the first day of school. Although many things went well, and I accomplished many of my goals, there always remains room for improvement.

Becoming a perfect teacher is a goal we all aspire to, but also must acknowledge as an impossible standard. As each school year ends, I believe that we owe it to ourselves and our students to spend some time reflecting on our successes, and yes, our failures. As I think back upon the school year just completed, I wish that I had talked less and listened more; explained less and guided more; graded less and assessed more; critiqued less and encouraged more; commented less and reflected more. How can I make it better next year?

The much anticipated (maybe dreaded?) Smarter Balanced Assessments are finally completed. Now we wait for results. As I write this column, scores have not yet been released. There is a lot at stake for our students, our teachers, and our schools. However, receiving our scores should not be the end of the learning cycle, but rather the beginning of the next cycle.

Once results are available, the real work begins. Where did our students excel? Where did they struggle? What should we do now? What changes are necessary in our curriculum? In our teaching methods? How can we best help ALL of our students to be more successful? These questions must now guide the work as we move forward in planning for improvement—not just in test scores, but in LEARNING. Isn't that really our ultimate goal?

The stated goal of SDCTM is "Working to Improve Mathematics Education for All Students." Your mathematical colleagues and fellow members of SDCTM can be a huge resource as you plan and implement your classroom objectives for the upcoming year. Think about the collective experience of the hundreds of mathematics educators in our network of professionals! Collaborating with colleagues is THE best way to learn new techniques, polish your lessons, and improve your teaching. What works and what doesn't? You have a large and talented pool of educators to connect with through your SDCTM colleagues. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a list of current members. If your name is not listed, your membership has lapsed. This will be the last newsletter that you receive. There are many benefits to membership: reduced member registration rates for South Dakota's best professional development conference (SDCTM/SDSTA Joint Conference), professional relationships with other mathematics educators, summer symposium workshops, SDCTM's official website, and last but certainly not least-- this newsletter. Please contact Treasurer Jay Berglund (jay.berglund@k12.sd.us) to renew your membership, or renew online via PayPal through <http://www.sdctm.org/joinsdctm.htm>.



SUMMER 2014-2015

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Calendar Notes:

- SDCTM/SDSTA Conference
February 4-6, 2016
- PAEMST Nominations Due
April 1, 2016
- PAEMST Applications Due
May 1, 2016

continued



Presidential Ponderings, *continued*

Do you have math questions or comments? Need input from colleagues? Yearn for math content discussion? Take advantage of the math discussion listserv hosted by the SD Department of Education. As a member of the listserv, you can participate in mathematical conversations, share ideas, voice concerns, and collaborate on statewide math projects. The DOEMath listserv has been helpful many times in my own classroom. When my students stump me with a question, I turn to my colleagues on the listserv and always receive immediate and helpful responses. No question is too big; no question is too small. DOEMath is a judgment-free zone for teachers of mathematics to help each other. You can sign up at <http://www.k12.sd.us/MailingList/DOEMath> .

Finally, I wish you a restful and productive summer. Spend some time reflecting on your classroom experiences from last year. Make some plans for next year. Take a class. Go to a seminar. But also save time for yourself. Do something to recharge your batteries. You deserve it. It's going to be a busy fall.

Cindy Kroon
SDCTM President
cindy.kroon@k12.sd.us

Blue Ribbon Panel Update

The Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel visited Sioux Falls on June 16, 2015. With standing room only in the teacher session, teachers, administrators, and legislators took the time to share thoughts and concerns on funding for education. The first roundtable session focused on gathering input from those in attendance about what they thought were the most pressing issues facing education in South Dakota. A theme emerged after gathering thoughts from each table. Attendees thought the most pressing issue was recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and elevating the status of the teaching profession. The second roundtable session focused on ways to resolve these issues by properly funding education. A sample of ideas presented are: introducing a new sales tax earmarked for education, a state income tax, a corporate tax, using all of the video lottery money, and looking into property tax levels across the state at the time they were frozen to see they are still equitable. The third roundtable session focused on gathering suggestions for next steps. The consensus was "Action". As one attendee put it, this is the 7th Blue Ribbon Panel in 11 years. Quit putting education on the backburner. The Blue Ribbon Panel will tackle the school funding issue once all public input is gathered. If we are to see any results based on this "productive" struggle, as teachers we must advocate for our profession.

Allen Hogie
SDCTM President-Elect
SD PAEMST Mathematics Coordinator
allen.hogie@k12.sd.us

“When my students stump me with a question, I turn to my colleagues on the listserv ... ”



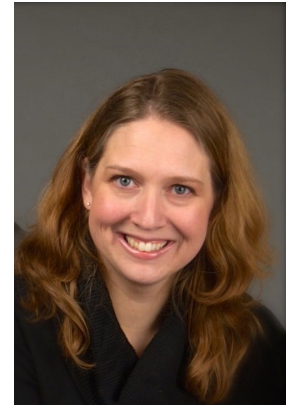
“...the most pressing issue facing [education in South Dakota] was recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers ... ”



6-8 Highlights

Crystal McMachen has accepted the leadership role of SDCTM 6-8 Liaison. Look for more information about Crystal with her first article submission in the next newsletter.

Crystal McMachen
SouthWest Middle School
4501 Park Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 394-6792
crystal.mcmachen@k12.sd.us



9-12 Spotlight

The 2015 Summer Symposium was a big success thank you to Lori Stverak and William Kliche for great workshop on teaching fractions. After the symposium was a SDCTM board meeting as we start to gear up for another school year and annual conference. I wanted to remind you if you didn't renew your membership the form is available on-line at sdctm.org with a link to pay on-line with Paypal. The 2016 Conference will be February 4th – 6th, so make sure to mark your calendars. A quote that I have up at home and at school is “If it doesn't challenge you it doesn't change you”. With that being said, I encourage all of you to present at the 24th Annual Conference in Huron. Every day every single one of you gives 100% in your classroom. We all love teaching and I believe we all have something to share with others. Think about the things you do in your classroom that are innovative, maybe new technology, a creative spin on an old classic, something tried and true that always works, anything that would benefit other teachers and their students. Then fill out the speaker proposal form (available at the SDCTM website). If you are hesitant about presenting solo find a colleague and present together.

I am excited to be attending the NCTM Affiliate Leaders Conference July 14th – 17th. I am looking forward to the opportunity to learn and grow. So watch for my next article in the SDCTM newsletter to hear all about the conference.

Continue to enjoy your summer!

Lindsey Brewer
SDCTM HS Liaison
Lindsey.Brewer@k12.sd.us



“If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you.”



Higher Ed Viewpoint

I trust that you all have had a chance to enjoy a little bit of a break by now with summer upon us. It is hard to believe that we already had the longest day and now the days are going to get shorter again for the year. Where does the time fly?

On the higher education front, I would like to address just a few items that will become of interest to the high schools as time progresses. First of all, the BOR is conducting a system wide review of general education which may affect the learning outcomes for a number of the current goals and the courses that can be used to meet those goals. This includes the math required of all graduates from a BOR institution in South Dakota. This may change how graduates fulfill Student Graduation Requirement #5 (SGR #5) which is stated as, "Students will understand and apply fundamental mathematical processes and reasoning." In short, this has been accomplished in the past by taking a required course from a pre-approved list of courses satisfying this goal. It appears that at the upcoming BOR meeting in August, the committee will ask the BOR to approve the approach that Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) has taken to quantitative literacy. In South Dakota it is always a concern to use phrases like, "Liberal Education," but here it is meant "to empower individuals and prepare them to deal with complexity, diversity and change." This definition was taken directly from the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) website. It is not to be thought of as the conservative/liberal distinction that often comes to mind first. A lot of dust will need to settle before we know how this will impact the math requirements in the future and the implementation of the LEAP approach, but we will definitely be in conversations with you as we find out more.

The other item that we have been dealing with quite heavily this past semester in the math departments across the BOR institutions is that of our placement exam for calculus. We are looking to see if we need to adjust the Accuplacer exam to better allow our students to have success in the course. The concern we had with the placement thus far was that there is a feeling that it didn't address the trigonometry content sufficiently. I am sure there will be more to come on this in the future as well.

As we are on the topic of placement exams, I was passed along this link from ACT where they discuss abandoning the COMPASS exam for placement altogether since campuses were using a multipronged approach to placement instead of a single exam anyway. Most campuses now also include a HS GPA and class rank in the mix. I'm concerned to abandon one of the prongs we use and wish they wouldn't dismiss the exam altogether but you may enjoy the read as well.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/06/18/act-drops-popular-compass-placement-test-acknowledging-its-predictive-limits>

It will be interesting to see what ACT proposes to replace it with.

Best wishes on enjoying a well-deserved summer break.

Dan Van Peurse

SDCTM Liaison to Higher Education
Professor and Dept. Chair
The University of South Dakota
dan.vanpeurse@usd.edu



"...hopefully the BOR and DOE can collaborate to develop alternatives that can help positively impact the shortage of math teachers."



Kelly Lane Earth and Space Science Grant

Congratulations to the following Kelly Lane Grant awardees:

Carrie Tucek, high school chemistry and physics teacher at Wagner Community School (Wagner, SD) won a \$5,000 grant for an Aquaponics System to help students learn about the interconnectedness of STEM fields and assist them in forming, testing, and revising scientific ideas to better understand the scientific method and scientific inquiry.



Hope Armstrong, 6th grade general science teacher at Georgia Morse Middle School (Pierre, SD) won a \$1,350 grant for incorporating certain novels (and hence, language arts) into her science classes. The selected books are relevant to the pertinent science topics of study to help the students make connections and to promote STEM education.

Dan Swets Robotics Materials Award

Congratulations to the following Dan Swets awardees:



Michael Jones and Jane Karp of Whitewood/Rural Meade Schools won a \$4,883 robotics supply grant to start two new FIRST LEGO League teams for grades 4 - 8.



Beth Knedler and Susan Heggstad of the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library won a \$4,851 robotics supply grant to develop a new VEX robotics program at the library for elementary and middle school students in collaboration with the Vermillion Area Robotics Club, SD Code Club, Clay County 4H, and Vermillion Public Schools.



Marcia Kahler, FLL robotics coach, won a \$2,450 robotics supply grant to start a new FIRST TECH Challenge (FTC) team at St. Thomas More High School in Rapid City so that middle school student members of the school system's FIRST LEGO League (FLL) teams can advance to a high school-level robotics program when entering 9th grade.



Donna Degen and Ross Hunter of Southwest Middle School in Rapid City won a \$2,000 robotics supply grant to expand their two FLL teams which are in their second year of operation.



PAEMST Nominations

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) program is the highest honor bestowed on teachers by the U.S. Government. Nominating PAEMST candidates is an integral component to a successful candidate pool. With your help, we hope to recognize and honor South Dakota's best math teachers.

Nominations for mathematics and science teachers of grades **K-6** will open in Fall of 2015 . To submit a nomination for an exceptional teacher, complete the nomination form available on the [PAEMST website](#), and submit the teacher's name, email address and school contact information. If you know more than one teacher deserving of this award, you may submit multiple nominations. The 2015-2016 **nomination deadline is April 1, 2016**, and the **application deadline is May 1, 2016**. Teachers may also apply directly at www.paemst.org.



2013 PAEMST Awardee

Congratulations to Lindsey Brewer on being selected as South Dakota's awardee for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This prestigious award recognizes her contributions as both a teacher and a leader in mathematics education in South Dakota. Awardees have been shown to devote more time to professional development, to incorporate innovative approaches into their classroom teaching, and to reflect upon their teaching practices in order to impact student learning.

Outstanding!! Enjoy celebrating your time in Washington, DC with the 2013 class of Presidential Awardees. We look forward to hearing about your trip to Washington, DC in the next SDCTM newsletter.

Allen Hogie
SD PAEMST Mathematics Coordinator

*Plan to nominate
a deserving
teacher early
next fall.*

*Congratulations,
Lindsey!*

Continue your education as a Coyote!

University of South Dakota School of Education



Undergraduate Teaching Majors

- K-8 Elementary Education
- 7-12 Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English, History, Mathematics, Physics, Political Science, Speech Communication, Theatre
- K-12 Art, French, German, Music, Physical Education, Spanish, Special Education*

*Double Major: The Special Education major must be paired with Elementary Education or a 7-12/K-12 teaching major.

Undergraduate Non-Teaching Majors

Kinesiology and Sport Science
(Exercise Science or Sport Management Specialization)

<http://admissions.usd.edu>

Curriculum and Instruction

- M.A. Elementary Education, Technology, Secondary Education, Special Education
- Ed.S., Ed.D. Curriculum and Instruction

Counseling and Psychology in Education

- M.A., Ed.S, Ph.D. Human Development and Educational Psychology
- M.A., Ed.S, Ph.D. Counseling
- Ed.S., Ph.D. School Psychology

Educational Administration

- M.A., Ed.S., Ed.D. PK-12 Principal, Director of Curriculum, School District Superintendent
- Ed.S, Ed.D. Director of Special Education
- M.A., Ed.D. Adult and High Education

Kinesiology and Sport Science

- M.A. Kinesiology and Sport Science
(Exercise Science or Sport Management Specialization)

www.usd.edu/grad





2015 -- 2016 Membership Roster

This is a current SDCTM membership roster: Use this to contact others in your area. Please check for your name. If it is not listed, your membership has expired and this is the last newsletter you will receive. You can renew your membership by contacting jay.berglund@k12.sd.us, or via PayPal through www.sdctm.org.

Crystal Becker ES	Sarah Gross MS	Joshua McQuade S
Sara Beckler MS	Gary Hatfield PS	Evelyn McQuillen HS
Clark Bennett PS	Denise Heisinger ES	Jenna Morrison HS
Jay Berglund HS	Carol Helms MS	Vanya Munce MS
Ann Blondheim ES	Dan Hines S	Marie Nehl HS
Lindsey Brewer HS	Pat Hoff HS	Ben Olson HS
Ashley Brockhaus MS	Nichole Hoffman HS	Heather Overland ES
Sue Brokmeier ES	Allen Hogue HS	Blake Rige MS
Heather Brown HS	John Hollingsworth PS	Wade Rozell ES
Patricia Bruinsma ES	Charles Holmstrom R	Allison Schmitz PS
Carolyn Burns HS	Amy Honomichi MS	Kevin Smith PS
Steve Caron HS	Karen Jarding HS	H Jean Starr PS
Linda Clair ES	William Kliche ES	James Stearns HS
Ruth Conway HS	Katie Kopp HS	Lori Stverak ES
Ellen Cooch MS	Mark Kreie HS	Lori Teller MS
Rob Cunningham HS	Carol Kroetch HS	Samra Trask HS
Jared DeBey S	Cindy Kroon HS	John Tyler MS
Mandi Decker HS	Paul Kuhlman HS	Dan VanPeursesem PS
Michelle DeYoung HS	Misty Larson HS	Pamela VanZee ES
Jennifer Dolejsi PS	Chris Larson PS	Rocky VonEye PS
Roxanne Dyk ES	Nancy Leach HS	Lori Wagner HS
Carol Eckmann ES	Brent Liechti HS	Melissa Walther HS
Joan Edwards R	LuAnn Lindskov HS	Teresa Webster ES
Nicholas Ernst HS	Dawn Littau MS	Seth Webster ES
Cindee Evenson HS	Joan Lubben PS	Jamie Weisbeck MS
Londa Florey ES	Ramona Lundberg HS	Nancy Weller ES
Vicky Fryda MS	Jan Martin O	Christopher White HS
Dorothy Gillespie ES	Gail Maruska MS	Megan Wilson HS
Jean Gomer R	Brooke McDonald MS	Brad Wood S
Connie Gretshmann HS	Crystal McMachen MS	
William Gripentrog HS	Sheila McQuade HS	

ES Elementary School
 MS Middle School
 HS High School
 PS Post Secondary
 O Other
 R Retired



Jay Berglund
 SDCTM Secretary
jay.berglund@k12.sd.us



Print a copy of this form. Mail with check payable to SDCTM to:

Jay Berglund
204 S. Exene Strert
Gettysburg, SD

Name _____

School Name _____

Subjects or Grades Taught _____

Addresses

Home _____

School _____

Mailing Address: _____ Home _____ School _____

Home Phone _____

School Phone _____

Fax Number _____

E-mail _____

Membership categories (Check only one)

- _____ Elementary School \$5.00
- _____ Middle School / Junior High \$20.00
- _____ High School \$20.00
- _____ Post Secondary \$20.00
- _____ Retired \$5.00
- _____ Student \$5.00
- _____ Other \$20.00

We now offer the option to use PayPal to pay your dues for a minimal processing fee of \$1.00. The processing fee will cover the processing fees incurred by SDCTM and fees charged for having checks cut by PayPal.

Instructions can be found online at:
<http://www.sdctm.org/joinsdctm.htm>



SDCTM Newsletter
C/o Sheila McQuade
OGHS
3201 S. Kiwanis Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

2015-2017 SDCTM Executive Board Members

SDCTM President
Cindy Kroon
Montrose High School
(605) 363-5025
cindy.kroon@k12.sd.us

SDCTM Past President
Ellie Cooch
Spearfish Middle School
ecooch@spearfish.k12.sd.us

President-Elect
Allen Hogie
Brandon Valley High School
(605) 582 - 3211
allen.hogie@k12.sd.us

Vice-President
Steve Caron
Aberdeen Central High School
(605) 725-8208
steve.caron@k12.sd.us

Secretary
Lori Stverak
Rapid City Area Schools
lori.stverak@k12.sd.us

Treasurer
Jay Berglund
Gettysburg High School
(605) 765-2436
jay.berglund@k12.sd.us

Conference Coordinator
Jean Gomer
(605) 629-1101
jeanann@itctel.com

Elementary Liaison
William Kliche
Valley View Elementary School
(605) 393-2812
william.kliche@k12.sd.us

Middle School Liaison
Crystal McMachen
Rapid City SouthWest Middle School
(605) 394-6792
crystal.mcmachen@k12.sd.us

Secondary Liaison
Lindsey Brewer
Huron High School
(605) 458-2243
lindsey.brewer@k12.sd.us

Post-secondary Liaison
Dan VanPeurse
USD
dan.vanpeurse@usd.edu

NCTM Representative
Samra Trask
Wall School District
(605) 279-2156
samra.trask@k12.sd.us

Webmaster
Cindy Kroon
Montrose High School
(605) 363 - 5025
webmaster@sdctm.org

Newsletter Editor
Sheila McQuade
Sioux Falls O⁺Gorman High School
(605) 336 - 3644
smcquade2@sfcss.org



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