

# KATM Bulletin

Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics

# SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

October  
2019

## 2020 KATM Annual Mathematics Conference

**September 28,  
2020**

**Shawnee Heights High  
School  
4201 SE Shawnee  
Heights Road  
Tecumseh, KS**



## A Message from our President

Another school year is in full swing! As the President of the Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics, I want to officially introduce myself to you. I am beginning my 35th year as a mathematics teacher! WOW! I began as a 7th grade math teacher in Oklahoma, then taught 7th and 8th grade math in Wamego, Kansas before moving to Fort Hays State University where I now teach Mathematics Methods courses to pre-service teachers.

The KATM Board has been busy! At our summer meeting, we developed a KATM Mission Statement; *“KATM fosters an engaged community to advance effective practices in teaching and learning mathematics throughout Kansas.” I am very proud of this mission as we continue to work for the 30,000+ elementary and secondary math teachers across Kansas. In addition, the KATM Board developed a statement that was read to the Kansas State Board of Education during their October meeting. You can see the language of this statement below.*

KATM has had collaborative conversations with the Regional Math Conferences training team. KSDE Math Consultant and Board member Melissa Fast has been instrumental in those conversations as we move our mission forward. You will see KATM Board members at each of the Regional Math Trainings, and look for more information about collaboration in the next year.

I hope that you will become a part of our online community through Facebook and Twitter. The KATM Board is committed to posting items on these sites, and we look forward to your posts as well as questions to the group. In addition, we look forward to the fall 2020 conference in Shawnee Heights.

It is my honor to serve as the KATM President this year! Please feel free to contact me at any time at [jkstramel@fhsu.edu](mailto:jkstramel@fhsu.edu).

Janet Stramel  
KATM President  
[janetstramel@katm.org](mailto:janetstramel@katm.org)

Dear Kansas Math Teachers,

Greetings! Hope you've had a great first quarter of the school year! I hope your first several weeks of school have been as great! My start of the year has been interesting as I adjust to a new group of students, but I've got some great new classroom resources that are helping things so smoothly!

We are continuing to tweak our Bulletin. We're hoping to make it as easy as possible for you to read and get the information that you need quickly! As much as possible, we will put in links to our website and let you get the information that you need there. We still want to give access to all of our members to great teaching articles and tips. Rather than publishing them in the Bulletin, they will be featured on our Facebook page and available to you by logging in to your KATM account.

As always, we would love to hear from our members about other what is going on for you! Or, we would love to feature articles and lesson plans from our members if you have an awesome idea you'd like to share! You can email me at [jennywilcox@katm.org](mailto:jennywilcox@katm.org) with any suggestions.

Sincerely,

*Jenny Wilcox*

Look for information about upcoming events in your KATM zone!

What's your favorite teaching tip? What burning questions do you have?

Post them to our Facebook page!

The KATM Bulletin needs submissions from K-12 teachers highlighting the mathematical practices listed above. Submissions could be any of the following:

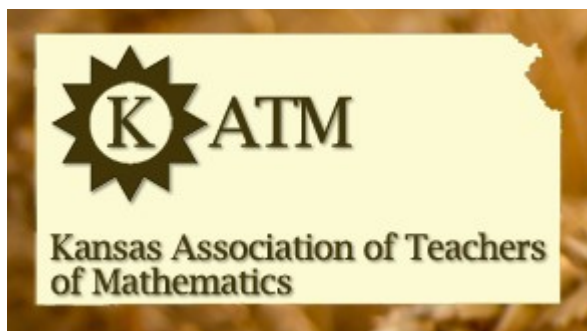
- ◇ Lesson plans
- ◇ Classroom management tips
- ◇ Books reviews
- ◇ Classroom games
- ◇ Reviews of recently adopted resources
- ◇ Good problems for classroom use
- ◇

Email your submissions to our Bulletin editor: [jennywilcox@katm.org](mailto:jennywilcox@katm.org)



[Click here](#) if you're interested in joining in conversation with other Kansas math teachers in our Facebook groups. Invite your friends too!

[Click here](#) to get information about applying for the Capitol Federal scholarship. It is awarded to a KATM member each year!



[Click here](#) to join KATM! Or let a colleague or friend know about KATM.

## **KATM Statement to the Kansas Board of Education**

We, the undersigned board members of the Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics, hold firm positions on certain values in the arenas of education and learning. One position we positively affirm regards the state's current mathematics standards, the "2017 Kansas Mathematics Standards." These standards represent understanding of top-tier quality, and provide a solid and comprehensive framework for the development of mathematical literacy. Deviation from these standards, now or in the future, would need careful review and extreme consideration.

We respect the role of the state of Kansas and the Kansas Board of Education as a leader in helping shape a quality educational landscape for the many students in its care. The state chooses to monitor and measure the effectiveness of student learning and growth in its own way and for its own purposes. We submit that these standards should retain their due respect as the premier guiding instrument for both mathematics education and assessment throughout the state.

KATM supports standards over assessments. Regardless of the direction the State Board of Education chooses regarding mathematics assessments, we recognize the need to have a strong adherence to and implementation of current Kansas mathematics standards.

We place trust in the State Board of Education, as you, like us, continue to endeavor for the best interests of our students.

## KLFA Update

The Kansas Commissioner of Education, Dr. Randy Watson, provided an update on Kansas education initiatives. Expectations in the workforce call for students to achieve more than a high school diploma, whether that be a job-related certification, license or advanced degree. Employers are focused on hiring individuals with dispositional skills, such as perseverance, not just strong academic preparation. Metrics used by the state to measure “success” of our education system include a five-year graduation rate, the five-year success average (determined as a high school graduate receiving a license or certificate to be used in the workplace or enrolling in a post-secondary institution program within five years of graduation), averaged to achieve the five-year effectiveness average. This data is then partnered with a predictability range that considers three factors shown to have the most impact on success rates: cumulative poverty, student mobility and chronic absenteeism. Current data show improvement is occurring, while more improvement is needed. Dr. Watson also noted the importance of learning from the re-design process and discussed the importance of early-grade skill development and project-based learning for students of all ages. Key in repetitive skill practice or project-based learning is effective feedback from a knowledgeable teacher.

Dr. Deborah Hamm, Superintendent of USD 373 (Newton, KS) shared information regarding the Kansas School Superintendent Association (KSSA) which has 232 members representing all sizes of districts throughout the state and is linked to the national (ASSA) organization. They collaborate with other agencies, including KSDE, to provide meaningful professional learning for both new and established superintendents. They honor a Superintendent of the Year and provide a Distinguished Service Award to recognize exemplary work of members.

Dr. Janet Stramel provided information about two organizations, the Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics (KATM) and the Kansas Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (KACTE). KATM represents 30,000 elementary and secondary math teachers to advance effective practices in teaching and learning math in Kansas. They provide two scholarships (\$1,000.00 each) to improve math instruction. There is not a KATM Conference this year, but KATM is encouraging teachers to attend the KSDE Regional Math Trainings throughout the state during the upcoming year. KACTE is affiliated with the national organization ACTE to support those who are preparing teachers. Members represent all Regents Institutions of Higher Education as well as many private institutions across the state. They will be holding their annual conference on November 8th in Hays, Kansas with the theme being Education: The Common Good.

A brief legislative update was provided by Mark Desetti of KNEA. He noted that there may be some older proposed issues resurfacing for discussion during the upcoming session and it is being discussed to raise the legal age for cigarettes and vaping to 21. Voting will be extremely important in the next election as currently there is a tenuous majority of pro-public legislators. He encouraged everyone to go to candidate forums as they are announced. Regarding school finance, he suggested districts would do well to put money into teacher salaries, as Kansas teacher salaries are below every surrounding state and we have a teacher shortage. “We need to make sure we have a highly qualified, caring, competent teacher in every classroom, raise teacher salary significantly, compensate for the cost of benefits and respect the profession.”

Melinda Stanley facilitated a presentation on Human Trafficking in the state. Presenters included Barry Feaker, Executive Director of Freedom Now and Topeka Rescue Mission; Sarah Shipman, General Counsel for Freedom Now, USA and Dorothy Stucky Halley, Director of the Victim Services Division at the Kansas Attorney General’s Office. The quote “Our eyes cannot see what our mind does not understand or comprehend” was used to help participants realize that this problem is all around us but we are not conditioned to recognize it. Trafficking is “recruiting, harboring, and/or transporting people solely for the purpose of exploitation”. It often includes the use of force, fraud or coercion and preys on the vulnerabilities of those trafficked. It is important that while we strive to identify who might be trafficked, we must also be vigilant to identify those who are traffickers and consumers. In FY 2018 Victim Service Reports saw a total number of 450 served and most, but not all, were female. 40% of traffickers were family members. Vulnerabilities often include immigration status, recruitment debt, isolation, lack of education and poverty. During the presentation, information regarding “red flags” were provided and indicators of sexual exploitation were provided.