

## Math E-Alert

From the Academic Office  
Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment

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### The Dog Days of Summer

MATHEMATICS



With June right around the corner, the school year is quickly coming to a close. Soon the last students will be on the bus and summer can officially begin. Many believe that summer is a time off for teachers but the reality is that summer vacation is really only for the students. In a July 15, 2015 article in U.S News and World report it was reported that about a third of all teachers nationwide participate in intensive training, or professional development, over the summer. Whether it is learning a new curriculum, modifying lessons, or aligning assessments to the standards, as the final bell rings, many teachers are already thinking about next year's students.

As you begin this summer, here are a few suggestions that will help you feel refreshed and rejuvenated for next year. First, reflect on the past school year. Identify both some successes and challenges that you faced. The successes will give you motivation while the challenges can help you determine a focus for the coming year. Reflecting will allow for you to think about things that you can change to help you grow as a teacher.

Second, use your time to investigate resources. There is never enough time during the school day to research the many resources available. Whether you are looking for performance tasks, materials to support intervention or information about math practices, there is plenty available but it takes time to determine what will be best for your needs.

Finally, get connected. Teachers can no longer teach in their respective silos. There is so much to be learned from each other. Consider reaching out to colleagues both in and out of your district. Colleagues within your district can help you understand what is occurring at different levels while colleagues outside your district can provide an objective perspective on what is happening in your school or class.

The dog days of summer may seem long, but they do go by quickly. Before you know it you will be back in your classrooms changing the lives of your students. Here's hoping you enjoy summer to the fullest.

### Student Opportunities

**Summer Math Challenge:** The Summer Math Challenge is a FREE math skills maintenance program based on Connecticut Core grade-level standards for math. The program is targeted to students who have just completed grades 1 through 7 and is designed to help kids retain math skills learned during the previous school year. The program runs from June 20th through July 29th. For more information visit: <https://www.quantiles.com/content/summer-math-challenge/>

**Math-tastics Summer Camp 2016:** Three dynamic camps with great activities will be offered this summer. These camps will be June 27, 2016-July 1, 2016 at Ledyard Middle School in Ledyard, CT, July 11, 2016-July 15, 2016 at the Charles E. Murphy School in Montville, CT and July 25, 2016-July 26, 2016 at Southend Elementary School in Southington, CT. These camps are designed for students in Grades 2 through 8. Additional information about specific sessions is available at: <http://www.campy.org/mathtastic-summer-math-camps.html>

**2016 Cutler-Bell Prize for Excellence in High School Computing:** This prize seeks to promote and encourage the field of computer science, as well as to empower young and aspiring learners to pursue computing challenges outside of the traditional classroom environment. Eligible applicants for the award will include graduating high school seniors residing and attending school in the US. Challenges for the award will focus on developing an artifact that engages modern computing technology and computer science. Applications will be accepted May 1 - November 1, 2016. <https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/csta2016app>

## Professional Development Opportunities

**Online Learning Modules:** Self-paced online learning modules are currently available to Connecticut educators. Currently there are two mathematics modules available and five modules for Meeting the Challenge are currently launching. These modules are:

*Mathematics Modules:* Focus on Practice Standards (Module 1), Focus on Content Standards (Module 2)

*Meeting the Challenge Modules:* Supporting CT Core Standards Success for ALL Students, CCS Mathematics Success for Students with Disabilities, CCS ELA & Literacy Success for Students with Disabilities, CCS Mathematics Success for English Learners, CCS ELA & Literacy Success for English Learners.

For more information or to register for these online opportunities, please visit: <http://surveys.pcgus.com/s3/CT-Links>.

**Connecticut Core Mathematics Current and Future Users Conference:** This conference is designed for teachers who are currently using the model curricula as well as those that plan to use them in the future. It will take place on June 21, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Central Connecticut State University. Topics for the breakout sessions will include introduction to the model curricula, using Geogebra, using Desmos, teaching probability and statistics, using performance tasks, reasoning and proof in Geometry, and user feedback. Register at [http://ctcorestandards.org/?page\\_id=1955](http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=1955)

**Texas Instruments 2016 T3 Connecticut Professional Development Summit:** Participants can choose from eight Texas Instrument (TI) professional development sessions two days, Wednesday, June 22, 2016 and Thursday, June 23, 2016. The summit will run from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm each day. Participants who attend at least one session will receive a free gift from TI. Registration now open at <http://education.ti.com>.

**ATOMIC:** The 2016 Annual Meeting and Conference will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016, at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell, CT from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. More information about this even can be found by visiting the conference [page](#).

## Resources

**Math Mini-Assessments:** Student Achievement Partners have released [mathematics assessments](#) that illustrate the shifts required by the CT Core Standards and represent the demands of college and career readiness. There are assessments currently available for Grades 2 through high school.

**Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool (IMET):** This [tool](#) can be used to inform decisions about purchasing new materials, evaluate previously purchased materials, and build an understanding of Common Core aligned materials. There is a tool for evaluating alignment at the K-8 level and a separate tool for evaluating alignment at the high school level.

**youcubed:** The goal of [youcubed](#) is to inspire, educate, and empower teachers of mathematics. Based on the math mindset work of Jo Boaler from Stanford University this site provides online courses, tasks, parent resources, and much more to help support math success for all students.

**Texas Instruments Building Concepts:** [Building concepts](#) are designed to help students connect concepts across grade levels. These lessons rely on the TI-Nspire and focus on the areas of fractions, ratio and proportional relationships, statistics and probability and expressions and equations.

**Bridging Practices among Connecticut Math Educators:** [Bridging Practices](#) focuses on CCSS Mathematical Practice #3 and Smarter Balanced Assessment Claim #3, which emphasize students' abilities to communicate their reasoning and to construct, communicate and critique mathematical arguments. There is a task repository broken down by grade level, modules for professional learning and argumentation resource packets available on the site.

## Stay Up to Date

The Math E-Alert is a great way to stay up-to-date on the latest math information. If you wish to receive the Math E-Alert electronically, please contact Jennifer Michalek at [jennifer.michalek@ct.gov](mailto:jennifer.michalek@ct.gov) to have your name added to the distribution list.

Do not respond to this e-mail. This alert is provided for your information only. Please contact [jennifer.michalek@ct.gov](mailto:jennifer.michalek@ct.gov) with questions.

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