

# KATM Bulletin

Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics

December 2021

# Save the Date

## Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics State Conference

Emporia State University

Friday, March 25

[Click here to submit a speaker proposal.](#)

[Click here to register as a vendor](#)

Registration information coming soon!

## A Message from our President

We made it to the half-way point of the 21-22 school year! Thank you for your continuous efforts to engage Kansas children in high-quality mathematics learning. Although sometimes it feels like an uphill battle, I encourage you to take time to reflect personally and with your colleagues on the moments that remind you why you became a teacher – that moment your students showed conceptual understanding, when you implemented a new high-quality task and the lesson went amazing, or maybe it was engaging a student that has math anxiety in a learning opportunity. I hear so many amazing stories from around the state, so I encourage you to reflect and share with us on Facebook or Twitter and inspire others!

We will have a new position on the KATM board, starting in 2022-2023, but now is the time to consider if this would be a great opportunity for yourself or your colleagues. KATM will be adding a Vice President of Early Childhood. There are more details about this position later in the *Bulletin*. *If you are or know of an amazing Early Childhood teacher or director, please encourage them to consider running for this position. In October, the KATM Board approved this position, as we want to make sure our mission of ‘fostering an engaged community to advance effective practices in teaching and learning mathematics throughout Kansas’ starts with our youngest learners.*

KATM is excited to offer our annual conference, face-to-face on March 25, 2022 in Emporia, KS. I hope you will plan to attend this event, focused on learning and growing together, as we enrich the math learning opportunities for all Kansas students. Speaker proposals are now being accepted and registration information will be sent out soon. See the full details of the conference later in the *Bulletin*, *online at katm.org or on Facebook and Twitter.*

As we start a new calendar year, many people like to set New Year’s resolutions. I encourage you to consider your classroom and mathematics teaching and how you can continue a current effective teaching practice, change an ineffective teaching practice, set a math teaching goal or improve your students’ experiences in math learning. Please join me and all Kansas math teachers in sharing your resolution for math teaching, follow KATM on Facebook and Twitter to join the conversation!

See you at the KATM conference!

Julie Thiele, PhD

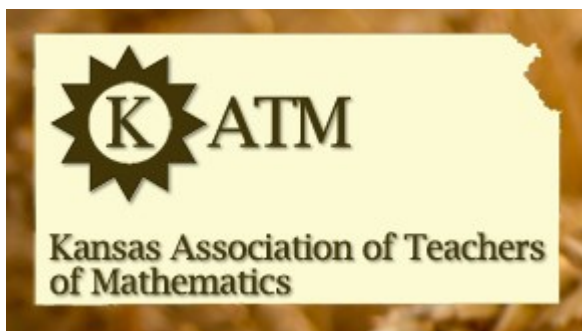
## Notice of NEW Future Call for KATM Board Position

Starting in the school year 2022-23, a **NEW** Vice President of Early Childhood position will be included on the KATM Board. For many years there have been four vice president positions: college, high school, middle school and elementary, along with other elected and appointed board members. The VP of Early Childhood should be a teacher or director, working specifically with children in the birth to Pre-K stages. This new position will allow the KATM Board to have educator representation of all ages of Kansas children as we work to increase the effectiveness of math teaching and learning in all Kansas schools.

All vice presidents, including the new VP of Early Childhood are expected to attend the summer, fall, and spring KATM Board meetings, the KATM conference, and virtual conferences, as deemed necessary. Each vice president shall assist the president, encourage membership, contribute an article for each *Bulletin*, and promote issues of special interest to the level represented. Vice presidents are elected to serve a two-year term.

## Interested in becoming involved in KATM?

These offices will be up for election in 2022: VP Elementary, VP High School, the new VP Early Childhood, Secretary, and President Elect. If you are interested in serving on KATM and helping us accomplish our goals, [click here to submit a nomination](#).



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



[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 and it is so easy to apply! Check out the note from our recipient from last year on the next page!



**How could use this money in your classroom?????**

## Capitol Federal Scholarship Recipient 2021

This year as the recipient of the Capitol Federal Foundation Grant, I was able to purchase both the Addition/Subtraction and Multiplication/Division Toolkits from Graham Fletcher and Tracy Zarger. These toolkits have been an amazing tool, in my role of math interventionist, to help students who are struggling with their basic math facts and number sense. The toolkits include Image Talks, Number Talks, Tool Talks, Games, Contextual Story problems, as well as Three Act Tasks centered around different addition and multiplication strategies. The toolkits also have manipulatives which go along with the easy and engaging games that are included in the kits. These kits have been instrumental to students success during intervention times. General education teachers and students have also benefitted from the toolkits, as they introduce new skills or revisit past skills in a different context.

Scott Schreiner  
Math Intervention Teacher  
Woodrow Wilson Elementary, Manhattan, KS

## An Update from our Elementary Vice President

Nikki Meier

As I listen to my fellow teachers I hear how hard this year is. This is harder than even remote teaching or hybrid teaching I hear. I myself feel it as well. Normally I am a very positive person and I work to rise above, but this year just feels different. I am doing my normal things that help, but it has become very evident our students are behind socially and emotionally due to all the turmoil in our world the past almost two years. I decided if everything seems different then I need to find different things to make learning work.

I am currently taking a grad school class on Robotics and Engineering. This class has been a lifesaver in learning new ways to make teaching and learning engaging and exciting. One of those things that has brought life into my classroom is our new Dash robot. I am able to use it for purposeful play, rewards, instruction and so much more. It has been a breath of fresh air to learn right along side my students and have new challenges to help us get back on track, focus on the positive and have fun in learning.

Maybe you already use robotics in your classroom, if you do, share that knowledge with your coworkers. Not everyone knows about robotics. If you don't, let me encourage you to check into Dash and Dot from Wonder Workshop for the younger learners.

What have you found to work for you in these hard times?

## Margie Hill New Teacher Scholarship

After a well-spent lifetime growing her family, serving her community, and adding to the profession of mathematics education, Margie Hill passed away on September 21, 2021. Margie was a teacher first, investing time and skill in her students. She next invested in other teachers, serving as District Coordinating Teacher of Mathematics. Later investments of her energy and knowledge were made directly into future teachers as a Master Teacher in the UKanTeach Program at The University of Kansas. No matter her role or capacity, Margie was a model of what it meant to know one's values and, with focus and ferocity, let them guide one's actions. Because of Margie's dedicating to preservice and new teachers KATM presents this scholarship opportunity.



**Who:** New teachers, first through third year, who are members of KATM and teach in Kansas.

**What:** \$250 funding.

**For What:** Funding may be used for tools, manipulatives, resources, professional learning or other means of supporting mathematics.

**How:** Submit a proposal outlining specifically how the funds would be used to support mathematics. Attach two letters of support, one from an administrator and the other from a colleague.

Submit proposals to Betsy Wiens, 2201 SE 53<sup>rd</sup>, Topeka, Kansas, 66609, or [betsy.wiens@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.wiens@gmail.com) by June 1.