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"The Math Learning & Teaching program taught me practical and effective ways to enhance learning in my classroom. I gained valuable tools to challenge and engage my students while meeting the needs of a diverse group of learners."

Elena Bertrand
Teacher
Drexel Online student
M.S. in Math Learning & Teaching '11

FROM THE editorial panel

Mathematics Is Fundamental

athematics is a basic human activity. Next to learning one's mother tongue, learning to count, measure, and recognize and use shapes is fundamentally important. Many of the words most frequently used in any natural language are related to things mathematical:

- Number (a, an, one, two, no, none, all, some, many, few, first, each, both)
- Time (day, year, before, after)
- Measurement (large, small, big, long, short, tall, more, less)
- Logic (and, or, but, not, if, then)
- Uniqueness (the, only)

Moreover, mathematics provides answers to many questions: How many? How much? How often? How far? When? Where? As mathematics teachers, we have chosen as our life's work inspiring the next generation to understand and embrace the importance of mathematics in their lives and helping learners answer life's mathematical questions.

Like mathematics itself, teaching is a fundamental human activity. Without teaching, the world as



The Editorial Panel of *Mathematics Teacher*: (back row) David Custer, Greg Stephens, Greg Foley, Dane Camp; (middle row) Steve Ingrassia, Alison Langsdorf, Sandra Madden, Albert Goetz; (front row) Laurie Rubel, Dan Canada, Elizabeth Appelbaum.

we know it would not exist. Teachers help young people develop knowledge and skills to function in our complex society. Mathematics teachers in particular play a central role in the formation of citizens, and they develop quantitative, visual, and logical thinking among young people.

NCTM's reasoning and sense-making focus and the Common Core's Standards for Mathematical Practice outline frameworks to engage students in rich tasks within a thinking curriculum. These standards describe a secondary school curriculum that is grounded in number, quantity, algebra, functions, and geometry but that extends to modeling, discrete mathematics, probability, and statistics. For more than a century, *Mathematics Teacher* has provided a teacher-to-teacher forum that offers a level of specificity not found in such policy documents. The *MT* Editorial Panel hopes that *Mathematics Teacher* will serve as a helpful companion in your daily work of engaging and inspiring students.

The MT departments—Activities for Students, The Back Page, Calendar, Connecting Research to Teaching, Delving Deeper, For Your Information, Mathematical Lens, Media Clips, Reader Reflections, Sound Off!, and Technology Tips—are designed to evolve to serve the diverse needs and interests of readers. The Problem Solvers Department has morphed into a Problem of the Month in the Calendar. Readers are encouraged to have their students solve these problems and submit solutions to the Problem of the Month editors for possible publication in the journal. In another change, the Calendar will revert to representing the publication month; in other words, the Calendar will run from August through May.

The 2013 MT Focus Issue has as its theme Beginning Algebra: Teaching Key Concepts. This timeless topic will be spotlighted in the November issue, and numerous other feature articles throughout the volume will address the teaching of algebra. Other issues will feature articles on infinity, Angry Birds, the Stable Marriage problem, and lots of others.

As the new school year begins, the Editorial Panel offers you best wishes for a productive and rewarding year as you engage your students in new challenges in mathematics, statistics, and modeling. And we hope that you have lots of fun along the way!