Mathematics in Vermont



The newsletter for Vermont's Mathematics Educators and supporters

June 2020

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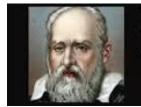
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The ways you can access this newsletter:

Request subscription by emailing Ryan Parkman; your name will be added to a listserv;

The AOE *Weekly Field Memo* when issues are published; and

AOE Website: <u>The</u>
<u>Mathematics Content page.</u>



The book of nature is written in the language of mathematics.

~ Galileo Galilei

A Well-Deserved Rest!

That's right folks, it's time for a rest. School years are winding down, if not already concluded. Students have finished their academic lessons, many have graduated, and some even attended a <u>virtual prom</u>. It is now time for you to recharge your batteries and get ready for the challenge of the upcoming school year. The AOE released a document, <u>Self-Care in the Time of COVID-19</u>, that may be a good reference for things to do. But before you sign off for the summer, I wanted to provide some information that may help you prepare!

Smarter Balanced's Tools for Teachers

<u>Tools for Teachers</u> is a brand-new web site for instructional resources and professional development from Smarter Balanced. They have worked with hundreds of educators to build an advanced toolkit for teachers that will help them do what they do best. Teach! Tools for Teachers features an easy-to-search website featuring lessons and activities designed to save teachers time. Here is a listing of a few of the features:

- interactive Connections Playlists that can be used with interim assessments,
- high-quality resources aligned to learning standards,
- formative assessment strategies embedded in every resource, and
- accessibility instructional strategies.

Teachers will log into Tools for Teachers in the same way you used to access the, now inactive, Digital Library. That means you will log in using either a Smarter Balanced account or the account you use to access the state's assessment portal. Smarter Balance has produced a YouTube video to describe the new Tools for Teachers site.

Vermont's COVID-19 Guidance for Schools

The Vermont Agency of Education has a <u>website</u> set up for all information for schools, from nutrition to closures and <u>continuity of learning</u> to graduation! This site will be continually updated as new guidance documents are released by the agency.

Events, Announcements, and Resources

Probability and Machine Learning in R - an online course for high school teachers and graduates of the VMI Master's program.

This three-credit graduate level course employs a problem-solving format to build from basic principles of counting and frequency towards an understanding of the key concepts of probability and supervised machine learning, a modern tool for making decisions from data. The course will utilize R, an open-source Statistical Computing Package, although no programming experience is required. Instructional methods will include assisted discovery, communication of process and examination of alternate solution routes. Topics will include Bayes' Rule, probability distributions, statistical regression and supervised machine learning.

No coding experience required. Familiarity with basic statistics is helpful, but not required.

Course will be held July 6-10. Registration, cost and additional information can be found on <u>VMI's website</u>.

Deadline for registration is June 19.

Directions for Submissions

If you would like to submit an article, announcement, event, or resource for a future newsletter, please email information to ryan.parkman@vermont.gov. This newsletter will be published four times throughout the school year. Time sensitive materials will be prioritized, be sure to check if the dates of publication will delay the sharing of information.

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