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| ***The Virginia Council of Mathematics Specialists*****Members' Newsletter****http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/VACMS%20logo3sm.jpg**May 2017***The Virginia Council of Mathematics Specialists*****Members' Newsletter** |

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| ***The President's Corner***Hello Friends!  It is hard to believe we are at the end of another school year and planning for the fall conference.  Preparation for the learning and networking opportunities during 6th Annual VACMS are underway!  I am excited about this year’s conference, ***Recalculating, Recalculating…Enhancing the Learning Journey***.  Presentations will focus on the 2016 Curriculum Frameworks and the revisions and additions to the instructional support information. For example, how to use learning progressions and information about research supported best practices in the “Understanding the Standards” to redesign local instructional curriculum documents and most important for our work, ways to support teachers in designing and facilitating learning. I am sure you would all agree this school year passed quickly and much was accomplished. As we draw to a close of the year, celebrate the accomplishments and take some to reflect on instructional needs for the 2017-2018 school year. http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/put%20on%20calendar.png***September 28-29, 2017, annual VACMS fall 2017 conference at the Germanna Community College campus in Culpeper, VA. Registration is now open at the website,*** [***vacms.org***](http://www.vacms.org/)***. Additional information about conference is also on the website. As new information becomes available it will be posted.***I hope everyone takes advantage of and enjoys summer break, relaxing with family and friends and returns next year re-energized.    *Corinne Magee* |

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| ***Membership Secretary's Corner***

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| **Is your email address current for the VACMS website?**VACMS uses social media, their website, and email to communicate with members and to provide information about the conference, the newsletter, email blast, and other resources.  We often hear about members who are not receiving information and sometimes their email address has changed but we do not have the new address.  If and when you change your personal email address or if you are using your school division email and there is a change please notify us.  **You should send an email to the web coordinator at** **lovinmath@gmail.com** **to request a change.**  In the subject line type, Change Email Address and in the body state what the new email address is.  Also, ff your email address is not current you will not be able to register. |

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|  http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/toolapron.jpg***The Utility Apron Resources Corner*** The summer is a great time to recharge and also catch up on some professional reading in preparation for the upcoming school year.  Below are some recommendations that other specialist and teacher leaders have found informative and helpful in their work with the school's mathematics program.*VACMS wants the Utility Apron Resources Corner to be a place for our members to share  with each other. Please send ideas for activities to do with teachers and suggestions for resources to use in coaching, grade level meetings or PLCs, and working with parents and administrators to Linda Jaeger at* *myteacher9@gmail.com**or to your Regional Representative listed on the VACMS website.* http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/readsummervacms.png |
| **Robin Carpenter and Amy Duffy, Mathematics Specialists         Roanoke City Schools, Region 3**http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/NumberConcepts.jpgHow *Children Learn Number Concepts* by Kathy Richardson is a resource for teachers and specialists that details the critical learning phases of number concepts.  We have used many of Kathy Richardson’s materials in professional development activities for teachers in grades  K-2.  We offered a class for primary teachers using this resource to develop knowledge and skills to support students developing number sense.  We had 56 teachers participate that developed lessons and activities that modeled number concepts using a variety of strategies, manipulatives, and made connections between concepts for students.  Teachers presented their lessons and student work.  They had very productive conversations using the student work looking for misconceptions and connections made by students.   |
| **Carolyn Holmes,  K-12 Mathematics Curriculum Leader            Hampton City Schools, Region 2****2017 VDOE Mathematics Institute Resources**The 2017 VDOE Mathematics Institute session for Algebra and Geometry which I attended, as well as other grade bands, provided participants with an overview of transitioning from the 2009 to the renewed 2016 Standards of Learning for Mathematics.  The institute also provided strategies on how to implement VDOE support resources. NCTM’s *Principles to Actions*: *Ensuring Mathematical Success for All* was used as resources to ensure mathematical success for all students. It is critical to build conceptual understanding, use problem solving through analysis, and differentiate instruction to meet the various needs of all students. It is important to provide a cohesive vertical articulation between elementary, middle, and high schools, thus setting the foundation for Algebra Readiness as students’ progress through their preK-12 experience. During the Algebra and Geometry emphasis was placed on transformations, graphing linear equations, quadrilaterals and proofs, and multiple representations of functions. Extensive learning opportunities and support for all teachers is key during this crosswalk year in order to understand the changes, how it will impact their planning and delivery of instruction, and paradigm shifts in assessments and performance tasks.The key to student success will be for teachers to understand the standards, not only the ideas in the standard described in the Essential Knowledge and Skill column, but as well as, the best practice strategies suggested to support instruction in the Understanding the Standards to implement changes from 2009 to 2016 standards. The valuable and informative VDOE professional development materials shared in each of the K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and Algebra/Geometry Institutes as well as other information are excellent resources for Mathematics Specialists, Coaches, and Teacher Leaders supporting teachers and schools. Access to the resources is now available at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/mathematics/index.shtml> for your work this summer and next year and next year.  |
| **Vickie Inge, Advisor to VACMS Board****Learning Styles—Then and Now**An important personal growth opportunity for mathematics specialist and leaders is to stay abreast of current research regarding teaching and learning mathematics. During the summer I hope you have time to investigate the *current thinking about learning styles* and the research driven advancement of understanding about the impact, or lack thereof, on student learning.***First,*** take a look at a short web-based article, *Managing the "Learning Styles" Myth*. The site includes an engaging 7-minute video clip published by Education World. This clip provides an overview of current thinking about how instructional practices based on traditional learning styles theory can be rethought and updated in a way that is aligned with the mathematics process goals. Access the website at <http://www.educationworld.com/managing-learning-styles-myth> .***Second***, read the insightful and thought provoking article, *The Myth of Learning Styles*, written by Cedar Riener, assistant professor of psychology at Randolph-Macon College, and Daniel Willingham, professor of psychology at University of Virginia. The reading provides details about what learning styles theorist get right and what is not addressed by the learning style theorists but is important for improving student learning. Download the article at no cost from  [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/249039450\_The\_Myth\_of\_Learning\_Styles](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/249039450_The_Myth_of_Learning_Styles%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). |
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|           **Stay Connected with VACMS and with each other—****Website:**Keep up with latest events, pre-conference information and post-conference presentation resources, and other resources related to the work of a  mathematics leader. Visit us at [**www.vacms.org**](http://www.vacms.org/)**.****Facebook:**Network and share with colleagues in real time. Access current information about teaching and learning mathematics posted by members. Request to join the VACMS facebook group by visiting the group'spage *VACMS-The Virginia Council of Mathematics Specialists.***Twitter:** Follow us on Twitter: @va\_mathcoach.**2017 Annual VACMS Conference:**Hold the date for September 28-29, 2017 at Germanna Community College at the Culpeper, VA. campus. Visit [vacms.org](http://www.vacms.org/) to read about the conference goals and strands.           |

*http://www.vacms.org/resources/Pictures/SummerVACMS2.jpg* |

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