

Points & Angles

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago
Volume L No. 1 Aug./Sept. 2020

Join us for our TWO VIRTUAL September events:

Distance Learning with Desmos Scott Miller



Friday, September 11, 2020,
at 7:00 p.m.

Teaching Mathematics as Compassion, Connection, and Collective Resistance: Online Classrooms with Justice at the Center

Mary Raygoza



Friday, September 25, 2020,
at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom online platform

Registration: Register online at
mmchicago.org

Cost: No charge (donations welcome)

Distance Learning with Desmos Speaker: Scott Miller

As lovers, educators, and ambassadors of mathematics, many of us are familiar with Desmos. After all, MMC has hosted multiple talks and workshops with Desmos founder, Eli Luberoff! With the school year underway in a remote setting for a number of schools, many of us are probably searching for the right tools to assist in providing rigorous mathematics instruction in a virtual setting. Rest easy, colleagues, as we can use Desmos to help fulfill this daunting quest! And we have the amazing Scott Miller to serve as our guide as we learn how to implement all the fantastic features Desmos has to offer in our remote teaching.

Scott is not a stranger in the world of mathematics education. Not only has he served as a mathematics teacher and instructional coordinator at Naperville Central High School for the past 22 years, he has also been in charge of or involved in many phenomenal projects in mathematics education. For starters, Scott is the co-founder of Teaching with SMARTBoard and has given many workshops on how to enhance instruction using smartboards, back before having a smartboard in the classroom was the norm. He has also authored *Energizing Brain Breaks 2*, as well as *More Energizing Brain Breaks*, collections of quick classroom activities intended to get students refocused, reenergized, and up and moving, so that they can be more engaged in class and ultimately better equipped to learn.

Distance Learning with Desmos (cont.)

Additionally, Scott has developed several interactive digital books and resources and hosts several blogs and podcasts as part of his mission to make math more enjoyable to students, while simultaneously increasing their skills. For all his leadership, guidance, and pedagogical improvement in mathematics education, Scott was awarded the Lee Yunker Mathematics Leadership Award in 2019 from the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Scott now brings his guidance and groundbreaking pedagogy to MMC, where he will give a virtual talk on using Desmos and all its features to deliver quality mathematics instruction during remote learning. If you are a math teacher wondering how you can utilize technology to deliver the best possible lessons from your home computer, this is a talk that you will not want to miss!

Teaching Mathematics as Compassion, Connection, and Collective Resistance: Online Classrooms with Justice at the Center

Speaker: Mary Raygoza

During these trying times, with the majority of Chicago area school districts beginning the year with some form of remote learning, whether full-time remote or hybrid model, many of us are asking the question, “How do we provide rigorous mathematics instruction with maximum efficiency, from a remote location, with nothing more than our computer and a Zoom app?” Additionally, how can we build strong, positive relationships with our students with such a model, especially since many of us are beginning the year without even knowing who our students are and them not knowing anything about us? Finally, how do we maximize rigor and rapport with students, when many of them may lack the structures and resources required for efficient remote learning?

Dr. Mary Raygoza will be addressing such questions in her talk, as she discusses how to make the most of remote instruction, keeping equity at the forefront, while simultaneously minimizing stress to ourselves.

Dr. Raygoza is a professor of mathematics education at St. Mary’s College in California. She has been published extensively and has had multiple speaking engagements in the past decade on the topics of justice and equity in education and mathematics. Recently, Dr. Raygoza has extended her interests and expertise to include the subject of online instruction. Earlier this year, she presented a very well-attended and well-received workshop as part of NCTM’s *100 Days of Professional Development*, entitled “Humanizing Online Mathematics Teaching: Possibilities and Resistance”, in which she spoke about building beloved classroom community, fostering equitable participation, connecting mathematics to students’ lives and the current world, and engaging students in collaborative group work, all within the context of an online classroom. Additionally, Dr. Raygoza published a paper recently, entitled *COVID–19, Exponential Growth, and the Power of Social Solidarity: The Math Behind the Virus*.

Teaching Mathematics as Compassion, Connection, and Collective Resistance (cont.)

Joining Dr. Raygoza in this virtual presentation will be Kelsey Macias, a mathematics teacher from California. Ms. Macias frequently collaborates with Dr. Raygoza and was a co-presenter for the “Humanizing Online Mathematics Teaching” workshop.

Points from the Interior

by Serg Cvetkovic

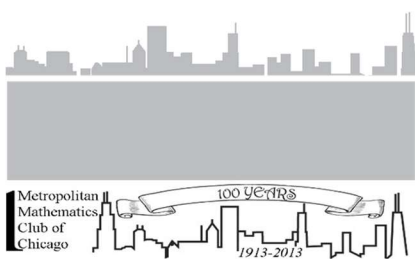
Are there any Star Wars fans out there? If so, you know how at the beginning of each movie, as the amazing John Williams score plays, there is an update of all the troubling things going on in this galaxy far, far away? Well, that is what the beginning of this school year feels like to many of us...the beginning of a Star Wars movie, where COVID-19 is the Empire, and we teachers are the Rebel Alliance as we try to make the best of a difficult situation in these turbulent and uncertain times, to do whatever we can for the students we love, miss, and care for so much.

MMC does have a bit of good news, however. Even though we cannot have our dinner talks and in-person events for the time being, MMC is still going to provide some really good professional development opportunities for you. We want to let you know that we love and care about each and every one of our members, and despite the setbacks, we will continue to deliver amazing and worthwhile events in a virtual format until the “new normal” resets to simply being normal again.

Since most of us are starting the school year with some variation of remote learning, MMC is kicking off the season with TWO virtual professional development sessions in September, both focusing on remote learning. On Friday, September 11th, the brilliant and multiple award-winning Scott Miller will be giving a talk on using Desmos for remote learning (*Distance Learning with Desmos*). Two weeks later, on Friday, September 25th, the amazing Dr. Mary Raygoza will be giving a talk on how to build connections with students and deliver instruction that is both rigorous and equitable, while in a remote setting (*Teaching Mathematics as Compassion, Connection, and Collective Resistance: Online Classrooms with Justice at the Center*). If you are anxious or stressed about remote instruction, rest assured, MMC is coming to the rescue in September!

In the meantime, you can keep up to date with events offered by MMC on our website, mmcchicago.org, or follow us on Twitter @MMCCChicago, as we will be posting updated information regarding future speakers and events.

Finally, MMC thanks and salutes each and every one of you for your dedication to students as you develop future generations of mathematicians and math teachers! We look forward to seeing you on Friday, September 11th! Cheers!



July Board Notes

By Beth Ann Ball

The MMC Board of Directors met Tuesday, July 21, 2020, via Zoom. The link to the Zoom meeting was on the MMC website.

With the fall dinner meetings scheduled to be virtual, the board approved the purchase of a professional plan of Zoom to host the fall MMC meetings. The board continues to look into a plan of approving out-of-state CPDUs for MMC members.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors is Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. The link will be posted on the website. MMC members are welcome to attend any board meeting. Anyone interested in attending the next board meeting, please contact Serg Cvetkovic at scvetkovic@cps.edu.

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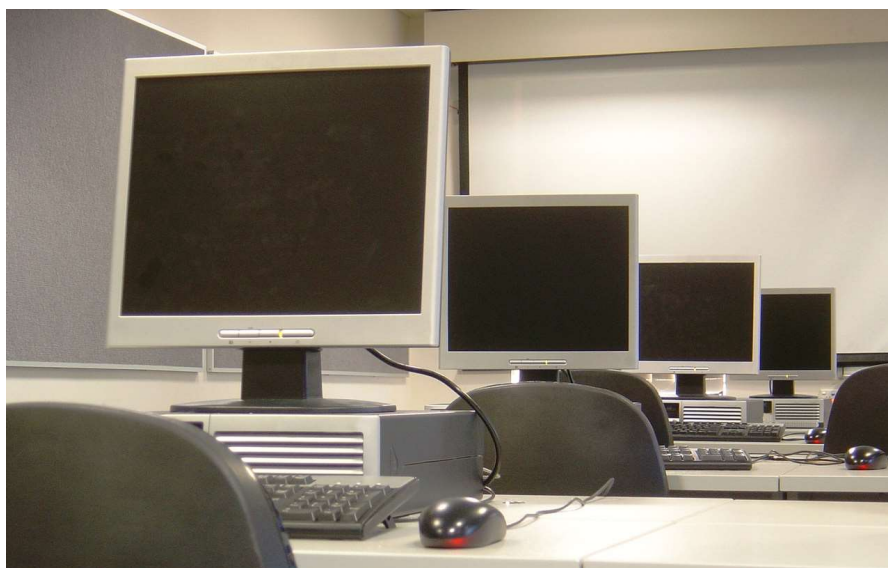
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MMC is Going Virtual!

This fall, all MMC meetings will be virtual via Zoom. Join us for high-quality professional development from your home. Invite new guests from far and wide to experience all that MMC has to offer!



Follow MMC on Social Media!



Is your membership current? Check your mailing label to see when your membership expires. You can renew by mail with the form below or renew in person at the next dinner meeting.

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Make check payable to **MMC**

MMC Membership and Change of Address Form
 Mail completed form and check to:
 MMC
 1644 Portage Run
 Glenview, IL 60025

Upcoming Events

Fri., Sept. 11	Scott Miller	Distance Learning with Desmos
Fri., Sept. 25	Mary Raygoza	Teaching Mathematics as Compassion, Connection, and Collective Resistance: Online Classrooms with Justice at the Center
Fri., Jan. 22	Zalman Usiskin	Some Great Middle and High School Mathematics Lessons Few People Teach (subject to change)
Fri., Mar. 5	Tom Reardon	Climate Change: Creatively Use Good Mathematics to Model the Reality (subject to change)
Fri., May 14	Jackie Palmquist	5 Surprising Benefits of Number Talks in Secondary Math Classrooms (subject to change)

Send upcoming event items to sburnett_308@yahoo.com no later than the date of the MMC dinner meeting preceding the issue in which the item should appear. All items are subject to editing.

Your membership renewal date appears in the upper right corner of the label

