



UETCTM News

Meeting on Tuesday, November 11

The Next meeting for the Upper East Tennessee Council of Teachers of Mathematics will occur from 4:00 to 6:00 on November 11, 2008 at Science Hill High School. We will be meeting on the 8/9 campus (see map on [page 7](#)).

The meeting will follow the standard agenda beginning with a social time from 4:00 to 4:30. From 4:30 to 5:00 we will discuss business matters. Presentations will be held from 5:00 to 6:00.

Val Love will be presenting on what can be considered “problem solving” at the elementary school level. Amy Howard will be discussing origami math for middle school teachers. Also, Floyd Brown will have a presentation for the secondary and college level. He will be speaking on using composition of functions to teach graphing basic classes of functions.

See you there!

Future Meeting Dates

Monday, Feb. 9

Tuesday, March 3

Monday, May 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Next Meeting	1	Grant Opportunities	5
Future Meeting Dates	1	NCTM Committee Opportunities	6
Math Perspectives.....	2-6	NCTM Conferences	6
Do You Believe in Me.....	2	Science Hill Map with Directions.....	7
Local Teacher Receives Math Grant... 2		Request for Article Submissions	7
Kathy Moffitt Awarded Teacher of		Officers/Contact Info	8
the Year.....	4	Membership Application	8

Math Perspectives

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Do You Believe in Me?

By Valerie Love

During a recent internet search for a video to use for a workshop, I came across a video on teacher tube called Do You Believe In Me? The video is a young boy from the Dallas area speaking to teachers during their back-to-school system wide meeting. He asked the teachers to believe in him, his classmates, their colleagues, themselves and their job.

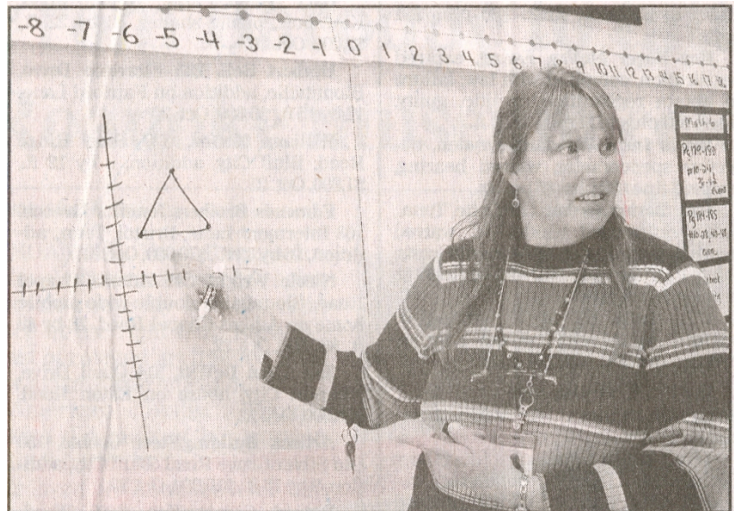
Do you believe in a student? Do you believe he or she is capable of performing in the work place with or without a college degree? Do you believe in his or her self worth? If you do not believe, ask yourself why not. Never write off a child. For some students, we are all they have got. Isaac Newton

was taken out of school by his mother to become a farmer. If not for the intervention of his school master, would the proverbial apple have fallen on Newton's head? Question why you are teaching if you do not **(cont. on page 3)**

Local Teacher Receives Math Grant

By Ryan Nivens

I had only been working at ETSU for two weeks when Susan Saam knocked on my door. She was looking for scholarship information for graduate school, and any other sources of funds, and hoped that I could help her. Coincidentally, I had just emailed my Eastman Scholar Mathlete teachers about the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association **(cont. on page 3)**



Picture taken by Marianne Steffey

Susan Saam explains a math problem to her class at Grandview Elementary School.

Do You Believe in Me? (cont.)

believe every child has the capacity to learn and shine in his or her own greatness. Just because someone is not learning, does not mean a person can not. Become someone else's inspiration.

Do you believe in all of your students? Do you show them to believe in each other? Whether or not you do, they are all showing up in your classroom. They show up wanting you to believe. Will you be the teacher that inspires a classroom full of students to learn, create, and dream of a world where they reach their highest potential? Become the teacher they deserve.

Do you believe in your colleagues? All of them? They have shown up to your school to make a difference in

children's lives. I hope you believe in them. Become the colleague that your peers are worthy of.

Do you believe in yourself? Do you believe that you are making a difference in the lives of generations to come? You are! It is up to you what kind of difference that will be. You may not ever see the difference you make. You may not ever be thanked for the difference you make. Despite this, become the teacher you have the potential to be.

You better not give up on them. Their lives depend on it.

-Valerie Love is currently the Math Coach for Johnson City Schools

Local Teacher Receives Math Grant (cont.)

mini-grant application for \$1000 worth of classroom supplies. I told her I was too new to help her find scholarships to graduate school, but that the TMTA needed applications to be turned in by tomorrow. She thanked me and left, and I added her to my email list.

Months later, I ran into her in Clarksville, TN at the TMTA annual meeting. Having only seen her once, I did not initially recognize her. She re-introduced herself and told me that she

had applied for the grant and had received news that she was a finalist. I admit I was excited to know that she had followed up on this opportunity, and even more excited to find out that she had won!

Congratulations to Susan Saam for winning this grant. Not only did she gain funds for classroom supplies, but Susan will be attending next fall's annual conference to give a presentation on how she has used some (cont. on page 4)

Local Teacher Receives Math Grant (cont.)

of her supplies to teach mathematics. Hopefully another northeast Tennessee teacher will win next year's mini-grant from TMTA.

-Ryan Nivens currently teaches at ETSU in the Center of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Education

Please see the Sunday, November 2 issue of the Kingsport Times-News for a full story on Susan and the grant!

Kathy Moffitt Awarded Teacher of the Year

By Ryan Nivens

Kathy Moffitt, a UETCTM member, was a participant in the Eastman Scholar Mathlete program this past summer. As a "Mathlete," she was challenged to take a more active role in the professional development of her fellow teachers. Although she enjoys teaching students, Kathy admits that teaching her peers is not something she finds easy.

Despite this hesitation, she embraced the role of curriculum leader within her district and helped lead sessions on teaching circumference during the month of July. Kathy has now won the honor of "Teacher of the Year" for Kingsport schools in a contest sponsored by Wal-Mart.

The Kingsport Times-News has written an article on Moffitt's award which can be accessed online [here](#).



Picture taken by Ned Jilton II

Kathy Moffitt helps students in a math study group at Ross N. Robinson Middle School.

Grant Opportunities

from NCTM November 2008 Bulletin

Mathematics Education Trust Scholarship

NCTM's Mathematics Education Trust (MET) has begun taking applications for a new scholarship intended for future middle school mathematics teachers. To qualify, applicants must be a college junior working towards teaching certification in middle (6-8 grades) school mathematics. The scholarship offers a maximum of \$3,000 which can be used toward tuition, fees, course materials, and other expenses. The deadline to apply is May 9, 2009.

MET offers other grants, scholarships, and awards. This year's deadline for many of their awards is November 14, so check their site quickly to see if you are eligible or interested in any of their offerings! More information can be found at www.nctm.org/met.aspx.

Student Achievement Grants

The National Education Association (NEA) Foundation currently provides \$5,000 grants which are given throughout the school year to teachers from all content areas. The grants are offered to help improve the academic achievement of students in U.S. public schools and public higher education institutions. Your proposal for student work should focus on critical thinking and problem solving that increases student understanding of standards-based subject matter.

The application deadline for the next grant is February 1, 2009. More information is available at www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm.



NCTM Committee Opportunities

from NCTM November 2008 Bulletin

NCTM is currently calling on members to serve on one of their many committees. Committees usually meet several times a year at different locations across the country. Volunteers start their term on May 1 and usually serve for three years.

The active committees are as follows: Affiliate Services Committee, Educational Materials Committee, Emerging Issues Committee, *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education* Editorial Panel, Mathematics Education Trust Board of Trustees, *Mathematics Teacher* Editorial Panel, *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* Editorial Panel, Nominations and Elections Committee, *ON-Math: Online Journal of School Mathematics* Editorial Panel, Professional Development Services Committee, Research Committee, *Student Math Notes* Editorial Panel, and the *Teaching Children Mathematics* Editorial Panel. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please visit www.nctm.org/about/volunteer for more information.

Mark Your Calendar NCTM Conferences

2009 Annual Meeting & Exposition

Washington D.C. - April 22-25
"Equity: All Means ALL"

Annual Research Pre-session

Washington D.C. - April 20-22

Regional Conferences & Expositions

2009

Boston - Oct. 21-23

Minneapolis - November 4-6

Nashville - November 18-20

Professional Development

E-Workshops

Find online workshops on a variety of topics at www.nctm.org/eworkshops.aspx

2009 Joint Mathematics Meetings

American Mathematical Society and
Mathematical Association of America
conference:

Washington D.C. - January 5-9

-December 15 Registration Deadline

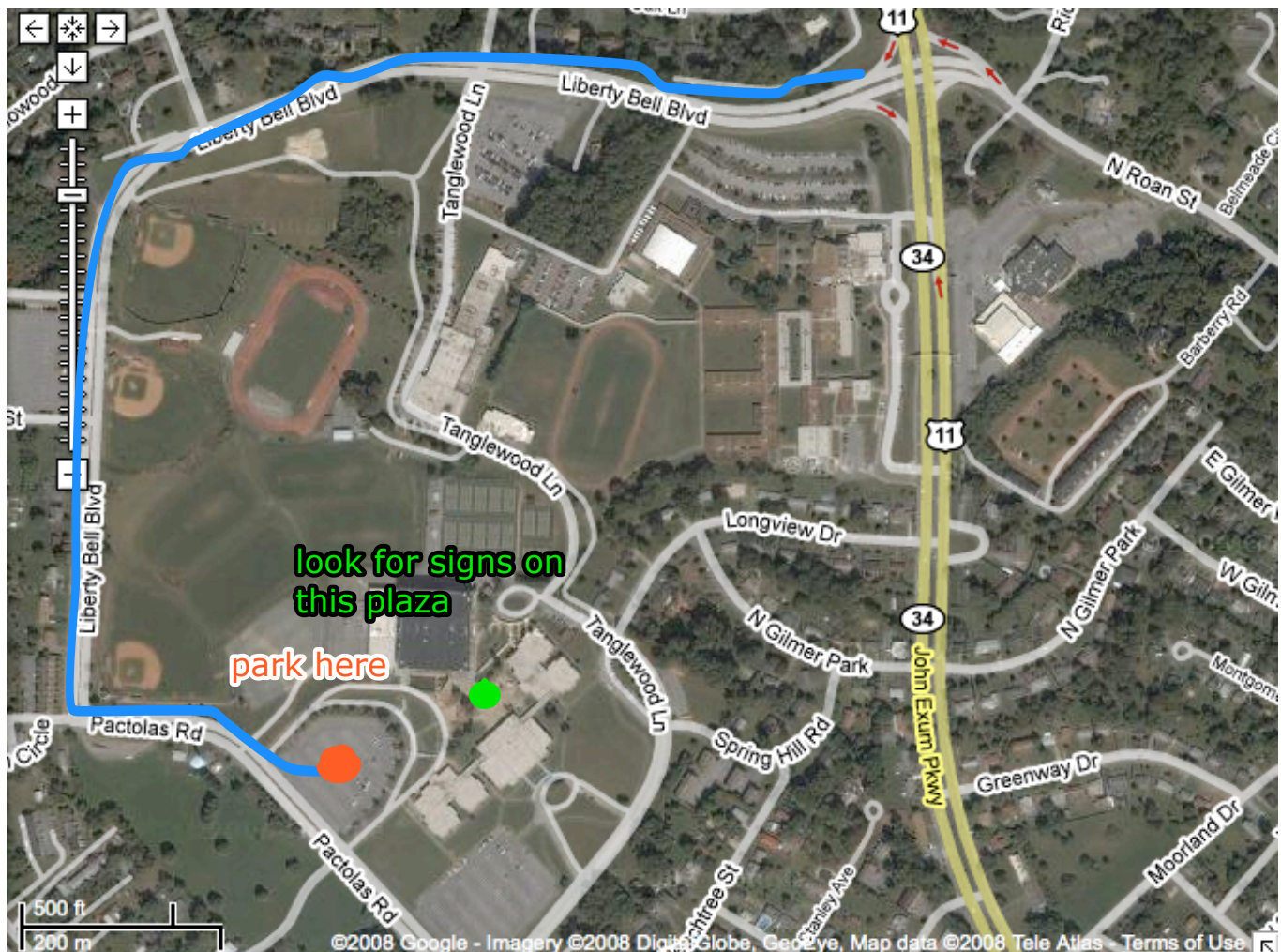
-www.ams.org/amsmtg/2110_intro.html

Request for Article Submissions

We are always looking for people to contribute articles to our ongoing “Math Perspectives” series. Every month, we would like four people to write for the series: a preservice undergraduate student, a preservice graduate student, a current classroom teacher, and one of our local math coordinators. Each person will voice their opinions, concerns, or observations upon a particular aspect of teaching mathematics. There are no set topics for this series yet, so the topic of each contribution is up to its author.

If you or someone you know would like to contribute to this column, please contact the newsletter editor, Ryan Nivens.

Directions to Science Hill 8/9 Campus



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2008/2009**

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If you are reading this newsletter on paper, you're missing out on all the color! Visit our web site (www.uetctm.org) to see the newsletter as a full-color PDF file with clickable links.

UETCTM Membership Application

Complete & return to Floyd Brown with a check for \$10 made payable to UETCTM. Completed Application and check may be mailed to Floyd Brown, Science Hill High School, Mathematics Dept., 1509 John Exum Parkway, Johnson City, TN 37604

Name: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

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School: _____ School Phone: (____) _____

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