



Widening
The East
Texas Math
Teachers'
Circle

Jane H. Long
Stephen F.
Austin State
University

About Our
Circle

Our
Participants

Tangential
Events

Our Culture

Widening The East Texas Math Teachers' Circle

Jane H. Long
Stephen F. Austin State University

January 15, 2020



Our Circle

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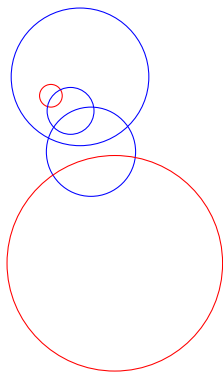
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EAST TEXAS MATH
TEACHERS' CIRCLE





Our Goals

- To engage teachers **of all types** in problem solving
- To help teachers develop problem-solving strategies that can be taken back to the classroom
- To help teachers help their students with **mathematical process standards** set forth in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
- To provide professional development opportunities **in the content area**
- To maintain a no-cost, open-door policy

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- Founded 2013
- 8-9 monthly dinner meetings per year
- Tuesdays, 5:30-8:00pm on SFA campus
- Rural location
- \approx 20 participants per meeting



Our Participants

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- Teachers **of all types**
- Participants in major grant programs
 - NSF Noyce - pre-service secondary
 - GEAR UP - in-service middle and high school
 - Texas' Region VII Educational Service Center's Collaborative
- Math department seminar students
- Faculty



Tangential Events

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- Math Circle demo session at annual MAA Section meeting
- Math Circle evening meetings at local schools
- STEM Days
- Julia Robinson Mathematics Festivals
- Math Blitz - middle school recruiting day
- SFA Charter School - Brain Games afterschool program
- Math Club



SFA STEM Day Sierpinski Pyramid

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Adventures in Mathematics: Texas A & M - Commerce

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Math Without Words - Tanton

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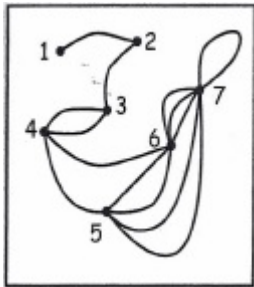
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Math Without Words at Henderson Middle School

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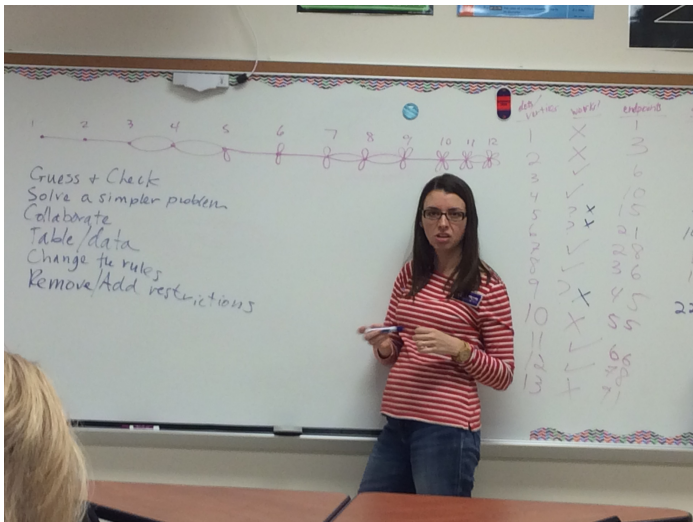
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Toward a Culture of Problem Solving

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Our Culture

- Senior (now sophomore, too!) seminar emphasizing problem solving
- (Some) Increase in inquiry/discovery/active classrooms
- Philosophical support for student research projects
- **More faculty conversations** about mathematical practices/habits of mind



References/Resources

- My email: longjh@sfasu.edu
- East Texas Math Teachers' Circle
<http://sfasu.edu/etmtc>
- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
<https://tea.texas.gov>
- Donnay, V., Long, J., O'Keeffe, M. *Hands-on Outreach Activities Using Fractal Geometry*, MAA Focus, Vol. 38, No. 6, December 2018/January 2019, pp. 20-23.
- Tanton, James. *Math Without Words*, Tarquin Group, 2010. Puzzle reprinted with permission in AIM's MTCircular Summer/Autumn 2016.