Virginia School Consortium for Learning
Professional Development Conferences
Second Semester – 2019-2020


Desmos: Calculator + Instructional Tool (Grades 3-12)
Date: Friday, February 28, 2020
Location: CTC@Hull Conference Center (13900 Hull Street, Midlothian, VA 23112)
Registration Fee: $169 ($229 for Non-Members)
Presenters: Nolan Doyle, Virginia Desmos Fellow (Chesterfield County Schools); Mary Williams, Virginia Desmos Fellow (Chesterfield County Schools); Larry Burner, Mathematics Specialist (Frederick County Schools); Dr. Deb Crawford, Mathematics Supervisor (Frederick County Schools); Tara Bondi, Mathematics Specialist (Frederick County Schools); and Amanda Rickard, K-12 Mathematics Coordinator (Rockingham County Schools)

Audience: Grades 3-12 Classroom Teachers, Instructional Coaches, and Curriculum Leaders

Description: Spend a day with desmos, learning the new 2019-2020 features and how to integrate this interactive tool into your instruction! During this workshop you will be given the opportunity to explore this dynamic instructional tool in small groups according to your own level of prior experience as a user of desmos and for the specific grade that you teach. Starting in the Spring of 2019, desmos calculators were available on Virginia's Standards of Learning mathematics assessments: Grade 4-Algebra II EOC testing. This workshop will prepare you to help your students feel confident using the desmos calculator on these SOL tests. In addition, during the workshop you will be able to examine the many different features of this free, game-changing instructional tool.

A variety of Break-Out sessions will ensure that all participants have opportunities to explore the different desmos resources in small groups at their own individual comfort level (based on grade(s)/subject(s) taught AND on previous experience using desmos). First time attendees will begin the day investigating all of the graphing calculator features and then move into facilitating and building activities. Those participants who have already attended a Desmos workshop or who have more experience with Desmos can spend the entire day improving their activity building skills by collaborating with other participants on creating their own custom activity. Throughout the day, you will be networking with other classroom teachers and instructional leaders to share strategies that have been and/or might be successful in your classrooms and schools. There will be an additional Break-Out session offered at the end of the day for those who are coaching other educators in their division on the use of desmos in their classrooms. During the workshop, all participants will access and use the VA Desmos K-Calculus Activity Bank to plan targeted and highly effective math instruction that builds mathematical discourse, elicits student thinking, and increases deeper learning, thereby building math competencies and mastery for all students.
Using Five Processes to Gain Deep Mathematical Understanding (Grades PreK-3)

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020
Location: Holiday Inn, Charlottesville, VA
Registration Fee: $169 ($229 for Non-Members)

Presenters: Kateri Thunder and Alisha Demchak (Charlottesville City Schools)

Audience: PreK-3 Teachers, Gifted Teachers, SPED Teachers, ESOL Teachers, Instructional Assistants, Instructional Coaches, Math Specialists and Coordinators, and Administrators

Description: In both literacy and mathematics, students need to make inferences, synthesize, and reflect on their thinking in order to build conceptual and procedural knowledge. In this workshop, participants will explore strategies for developing conceptual understanding and procedural knowledge in mathematics through the five processes: communication, representation, problem solving, reasoning, and connections. Participants will examine what each process is, and why each process is significant to learning in mathematics. The presenters will share a variety of evidence-based practices for engaging PreK-3 students in these five processes, including academic discourse, vocabulary instruction, the Concrete-Representational-Abstract (CRA) model, making conjectures, and self-monitoring strategies. Through personally participating in problem-solving with manipulatives, games, and truly problematic contexts, participants will analyze the mathematical processes students use as well as the mathematical concepts and procedures they learn. Throughout the workshop, participants will actively engage in and reflect on rich mathematics activities that can be used with PreK-3 students to enable them to gain deep mathematical understanding.

Computer Science for All... For the Rest of Us (Grades K-12)

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020
Location: Holiday Inn, Charlottesville, VA
Registration Fee: $169 ($229 for Non-Members)

Presenter: Chris Dovi, Executive Director of CodeVA

Audience: Grades K-12 Administrators, Guidance Counselors, Media Specialists, Art Teachers, After-School Curriculum Leaders, and Classroom Teachers

Description: Computer science education is an investment in our children's future, and computer science literacy has now been designated as an essential literacy for all students, according to the Virginia Department of Education. However, for most school divisions seeking ways to support the new Virginia K-12 Computer Science SOLs, the subject remains a mystery. Much of the work rests with classroom teachers, but the involvement of other educators who are working in support positions is also essential to the success of establishing effective Computer Science programs. This workshop will dive into computer science for "the rest of us." The workshop will explore the differences between tech education and computer science or computational thinking. The focus will be on how and why computer science literacy matters to students, and thus why it needs to matter to all educators as well. By attending this workshop, participants will “get the facts” about computer science and develop their understanding of the importance of incorporating computational thinking into all of their school programs. Participants will have the opportunity to spend time trying for themselves some hands-on activities exploring computer science classroom instruction in order to help develop their appreciation and understanding of why almost all kids love learning computer science. Participants will also be provided with an introduction to the many free tools and resources that CodeVA makes available to school divisions as they work to meet the new Computer Science SOL mandate.