

NEWS FROM THE BENJAMIN BANNEKER ASSOCIATION

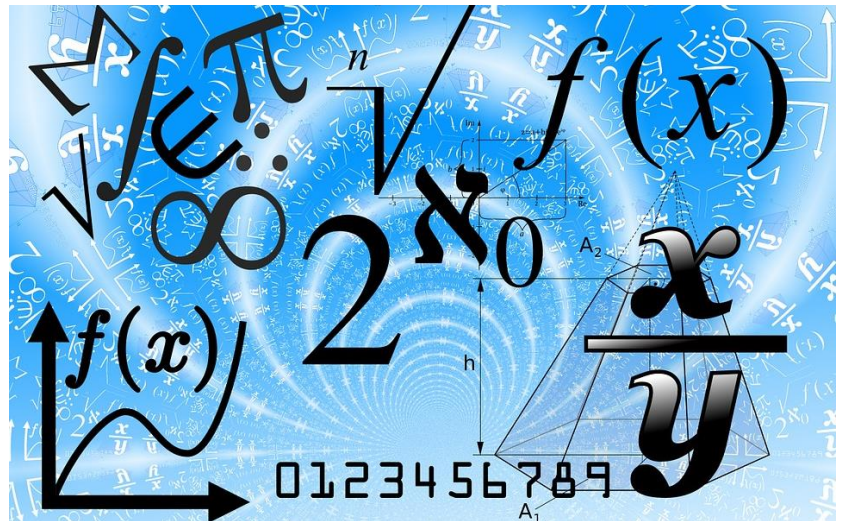
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**Greetings from Latrenda Knighten, BBA
South Central Regional Director**

FALL 2018

Greetings South Central Region,
I hope this email finds you well.
You are receiving this email
because you are either a current
member, past member, or
supporter of the Benjamin
Banneker Association (BBA). I
would like to introduce myself to
you. My name is Latrenda Knighten
and I am the South Central
Regional Director for the Benjamin
Banneker Association. I live in Baton Rouge, LA and work as the Elementary
Mathematics Instructional Specialist in the Curriculum & Instruction and
Professional Development Department for my local school district. At this time, I'd
like to ask you to place a few items on your "to do" list.

Thanks in advance,

Latrenda Knighten



THINGS TO DO:



1. Visit the BBA webpage: <http://bbamath.org> to view current updates.
2. If you haven't done so already, renew your BBA membership. Use the [Google Form](#) to update/provide your contact information when submitting your membership payment.
3. Consider volunteering for BBA by serving on a BBA committee and/or helping generate members in your area. I

would love your help in rejuvenating our region and boosting our membership numbers!

4. If you're a member of NCSM, please make plans to vote in the Fall 2018 Election. Open positions for the Fall Election are: Second Vice President, Regional Director: Central 1; Regional Director: Eastern 1; and Regional Director: Southern 2. Online voting opened on September 15, 2018 and will close on October 15, 2018 at midnight.

5. If you're a member of NCTM, please make plans to vote in the Fall 2018 Board of Directors Election. Individual NCTM members will be asked to vote for: one candidate for President-Elect; one candidate for Director, Elementary Level; one candidate for Director, Middle School Level; one candidate for Director, Canadian Region, and one candidate for Director, At-Large. The election will be conducted exclusively online. If your individual membership was current as of August 31, 2018, you will be eligible to vote in this year's election, which opens September 28, 2018.

Make sure your email address is up to date to receive ballot information when voting begins. [Log in to your profile](#) today to confirm your contact information is correct.



I hope you had a great and exciting start to the 2018 – 2019 school year. In Louisiana, we have something called *lagniappe* which means “a bonus” or “something extra”. As you and your students and/or colleagues get settled into the 2018 – 2019 school year, I’d like to leave you with a little *lagniappe* - a few suggestions and tips to help you “mathematize” your classroom and establish a classroom environment that supports hands-on, student-centered mathematics. (If your primary role in

education is that of a teacher leader, please consider sharing these tips with the teachers you serve or with pre-service teachers.)

Suggestions for Starting the Year Off Right (The suggestions listed below are an excerpt from the [NCTM Back to School Resources](#) section. Please click the link to access the article in its entirety.)

- **Start a lesson plan notebook or journal.** Some days your lessons will surpass your expectations; other days, you'll wonder what went wrong. Create a notebook (hard copy or electronic) with copies of your lesson plans and two sets of worksheets. Keep notes on what works and what doesn't, writing directly on the lesson plan or one copy of the worksheet. When you go back to revise or recreate lessons for the next school year, you will have a good record of what worked—and what you can build on.
- **Don't sell your class short.** Avoid telling your class "this is easy," "this will be fun," "this shouldn't be too hard," or "this is going to be tough." If students succeed at a task you've labeled "easy," the accomplishment seems less significant. If they do not, they may feel worse than they otherwise would. What is easy for one student is difficult for the next, so keep all your students on their toes, and celebrate their accomplishments.
- **Be consistent.** Students tend to remember your rules better when they stay the same and are enforced equally and consistently.
- **Create problem solvers.** Start each class with a set of questions and riddles that promote logical thinking. Allow students to work in small groups, and emphasize

that they should discuss solution strategies and how they got their answers. This activity shows students that your classroom is a place where communication and collaboration is encouraged.

- **Who's doing the math?** Be mindful of who is actually doing the mathematics in the classroom. The students should be doing their share of the thinking, explaining, and reasoning. Give students a chance to struggle and wrestle with some math every day! Suggesting a solution strategy too quickly doesn't give students a chance to solve problems.
- **Talk with colleagues.** Try to meet weekly with a group of fellow teachers to discuss teaching strategies, share classroom-management techniques, and brainstorm ways to offer more opportunities for students. Consider preparing a monthly math department newsletter for parents.
- **Use questions.** Make your classroom a safe place to ask and answer questions. Try using students' questions to drive your lesson, with students working to answer each other's questions.
- **Lastly, make mathematics a priority within your classroom.** Plan to integrate mathematics with other subject areas. An easy way to get started is to collect children's literature that promotes mathematical concepts. (The [NCTM](#) web page is a great resource for articles and suggestions on literature integration. For example, the April 2005 focus issue of Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School has several ideas that can be modified for use in the lower or higher grades.) Connections can also be made to the science and social studies curriculum by analyzing data that can be extended into a real-life problem-solving situation.

Please feel free to contact me at ldknighten@bbamath.org if you have questions or want to become more active in BBA.

Have a great week!

Latrenda

Latrenda Knighten

BBA South Central Regional Director

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