



Halloween Costumes

Above: Tommy Gulo

At right: Rebecca Dziubla, Margaret Gawrych, & Candice Sagliano



"SUCCESS CONSISTS OF DOING THE COMMON THINGS OF LIFE UNCOMMONLY WELL."  
~UNKNOWN

NOVEMBER 1, 2018

## Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference

On October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, several math department members attended the ICTM/ISTA Annual Math and Science Conference in Tinley Park. Here is what they had to say about the event:

- Rebecca Dziubla** - I attended a breakout titled "[Rethinking Math Homework](#)" presented by Frank Wapole and Evan Borkowski (Jacobs High School). They made a great point that how we present information is not how students perceive it. This leaves homework to have a negative effect on achievement (the students who do not know what to do either practice the wrong procedure or give up completely) or no effect on achievement (another to-do task). Instead what we can do for homework is: (1) Ask to analyze correct work instead of "find the mistake," (2) Ask students to group questions by perceived difficulty instead of solving, or (3) Ask students to reflect on the day's lesson. I also attended a breakout titled "[Let's Move!](#)" presented by David Sladkey and Scott Miller (Naperville Central). We practiced some really great and quick brain breaks and ways to get moving within a math class. I also won David's book "Energizing Brain Breaks" with 50 more examples if anyone is interested to flip through!
- John Nellesen** – "[Blended Learning in the Math Classroom](#)": The presenter explained various models of [Blended Learning](#): Station Rotation, Lab Rotation, Individual Rotation, Flipped Classroom, Flex, A La Carte and Enriched Virtual. Her model is students (mostly seniors) are required to be in (Pre-Calculus) class 3 days a week, with blended days (optional attendance) twice a week. Students must have a C or better on Friday at 3pm in order to use their blended days the following week, otherwise they are required to be in class the following Blended days. Blended days are mixed learning environment based upon students' progress. She uses Google Forms, MyMathLab, EdPuzzle, PlayPosit, WeVideo, Desmos (Blended Days) and Galileo Assessment for testing. "It's not a question of does it work or doesn't it work, it's a different delivery method. Students can be successful or not successful, it is up to them."
- Candice Sagliano** – I went to a session called "[My Favorite Statistics Activities for AP Statistics.](#)" There was a great [activity](#) for students to perform a t-test using data collected from a matched pairs experiment placing plastic chips onto a paper using your dominant hand vs. your non-dominant hand. A session called "[Improving SAT Scores and Instruction through Literacy Strategies](#)" used [Padlet](#) to share answers via an electronic device much like placing post-it notes on a class bulletin board. A good SAT strategy for students tackling difficult word problems is to read the last sentence first and then read the whole word problem after knowing the main idea/question which is usually found in the last sentence.
- Ginny Zeman** - I attended a session called "Down with Retakes" where two teachers talked about their journey over the past few years with retakes. They have mostly moved away from retakes and have tried to focus on ways to encourage students to be proactive before the test. They used the following [checklist](#) for what quality notes, group work, and homework should look like. They also have students fill out this [study plan](#) after a quiz in order to better prepare for the test.



A crowded ICTM session  
Floor: Ginny Zeman, Rebecca Dziubla  
Far Back: science teacher Jonathon Rapp

## Assorted Activities

This month we highlight some of the things taking place both inside and outside of the LP classrooms. Below are some examples of department happenings:

- **Clint Anticevich** – On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Clint shared the joys of being a mathematics teacher with elementary school students in St. Charles.



Elementary students learning about what it's like to be a high school math teacher

- **Theresa Kim & Rebecca Dziubla** – On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Theresa and Rebecca chaperoned the Hawaiian-themed Homecoming Dance.

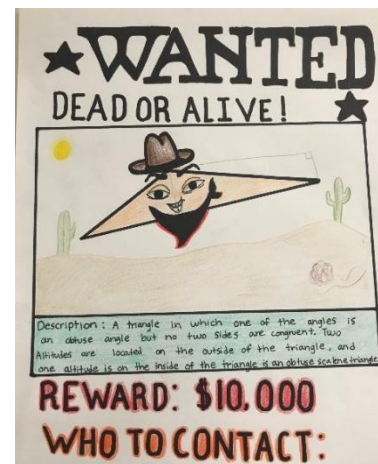


- **Alanda Mehic** – Alanda was named the "Department Member of the Month" for her work in creating the new Algebra 3 course over the summer. She also serves as the Lake Park College of DuPage liaison, focusing on this transition math course and its implementation of the ALEKS online math program.



Alanda Mehic with her Lancer trophy

- **Ashley Castellanos** – In Geometry Honors, students created wanted posters for the different types of triangles they were learning about in class to help remember the different properties of their sides and angles.



- **Margaret Gawrych, Jay Ivory, and Rakhi Mistry** - Margaret, Jay, and Rakhi are implementing Quizlet in their lessons to support vocabulary comprehension in Geometry. Below are a few pictures from their classes showing students engaged during a Quizlet Live Game! Students are grouped randomly by the computer into groups. As a question appears, students pick from list of answers that are different on each team member's computer. This is intended to enable students to have the opportunity to collaborate and also reinforce vocabulary knowledge.

