



May 2024



Hello, my name is Catherine Richard and I have the privilege of teaching 7th grade math at [Grand Lake High School](#) in Cameron Parish.

This year, I had the pleasure of co-teaching the LDOE [Robotics Lab Pilot](#) class. This pilot class, structured to be an additional elective course for students, perfectly complements the state's focus on [computer science](#) education and the upcoming standards writing beginning this month! We use these materials to support an [acceleration approach](#) to learning alongside our high-quality instructional materials. Being involved in the pilot class is a great advantage because I am able to use the Robotics Lab to reinforce the content covered in 7th grade math. Reflecting on the relationship between the Robotics Lab Pilot and our adopted math curriculum allows us to *build* students' math knowledge in the *engaging* environment of robotics class. **I am seeing students come to math class better prepared and calling out the connections with their robotics tasks.**

Prior to the pilot professional learning, I had very little experience with robotics or coding. After almost a year of teaching the class, I definitely see the benefit of combining math with coding and robotics. **The students are so focused and determined to complete the robotics tasks that they reflect and revise their own work as well as the work of their peers, all while using math (without even realizing it!).** It is so much more rewarding for them to watch the robot physically carry out the task and it allows them to grasp the concept better to see their hard work play out in real life.

If you are interested in learning more about this pilot, computer science training opportunities such as [Energize](#) and [Ignite](#), or [STEM Pathways Renaissance](#), join us for exciting sessions at [Teacher Leader Summit](#) which will take place in New Orleans, May 28-30. No matter what content area you teach or support, Teacher Leader Summit will have an abundance of sessions to support your growth as an educator. I hope to see you there!

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TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Teacher Leader Summit

The 2024 [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held May 28-30, in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. To schedule sessions and to find out more about this year's Summit, download the Cvent app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), and access the event with the code **FgXJiTLS24**.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

LITERACY

Regional Summer Literacy Tour

It is almost time to register for the 3rd Annual Regional Summer Literacy Tour. Information concerning registration will be shared soon in the Weekly School System Newsletter. Please save the date for the following dates and locations:

- June 17: Harahan
- June 18: Lake Charles
- June 21: Baton Rouge
- July 8: West Monroe
- July 9: Bossier City
- July 11: Alexandria

Each date will consist of three morning sessions. Each session will feature adolescent intervention and planning to support all learners in your ELA classroom, as well as afternoon sessions geared towards our Kindergarten through third grade teachers and leaders. Topics such as science of reading, inside of daily instruction, and targeting skills from DIBELS inside core instruction.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Supporting Summer Learning at Home

The following resources can be used to support students at home over the summer with literacy:

- [Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program](#)
- [Family Summer Learning Support Toolkit](#)
- [Family Grab and Go](#)
- Home Connect newsletters from the Amplify platform

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

Teacher Leader Summit Session Preview

To further support high-quality instruction in ELA classrooms, this year's Teacher Leader Summit will include ELA sessions focused on the following topics:

- Plan to deliver high impact instruction
- Maximize instructional planning through Teacher Collaboration cycle
- Support ELA teachers with HQIM
- Use FUEL to support literacy skills
- Overview of ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024)

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Updates

The LDOE has partnered with teachers across Louisiana to update the [ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\)](#) curriculum. The new development 6 units for grades 3 and 4 units are available now and the grade 5 unit will be available by May 15. The development 6 units provide schools and systems with a second unit option for their [Level 3 unit](#).

Additionally, the first set of unit-aligned fluency supports, [FUEL \(Fluency Utilized to Engage Learners\)](#), are available now. The remaining unit resources will be released on a rolling basis. The materials will be added to the Supports folder for each unit on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) as they become available. These materials are designed to provide support for students performing at or just below benchmark on ELA assessments and/or foundational reading assessments.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum Update

All grade 8 Bayou Bridges units are now available. Please navigate to the [Bayou Bridges Resource page](#) to access. Units are aligned to meet the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#). All Kindergarten units will be published by May 3, grade 1 units by May 24, and grade 2 units by June 19.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit Session Preview

To further support high-quality instruction in social studies classrooms, this year's Teacher Leader Summit will include sessions that focus on the following topics:

- Planning when using the Bayou Bridges Curriculum
- Assessing student learning in the Bayou Bridges Curriculum
- Implementing the high school Civics Course Framework 2.0
- Discussing lessons learned and best practices from the Bayou Bridges Pilot
- Facilitating Social Studies Teacher Collaboration

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Math Refresh Summer Webinar Series

The Louisiana Department of Education is excited to offer the second year of the Math Refresh Summer Webinar series. Educators, including teachers, school leaders, and system leaders, should register to learn how to impact math instruction in the coming year. Topics and dates are listed below:

- June 10 Navigating Act 260
- June 17 Accelerating Impact with Zearn
- June 24 Exploring the Math Leader Toolkit
- July 8 Using Flame Resources to Support the Success of K-8 Students
- July 15 Understanding High School Math Courses- What's in a Title?
- July 22 Empowering Excellence: Math Teacher Collaboration and Strategic Planning

Register with your school email address through the [Math Refresh Summer Webinar Series](#) flyer.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

High School Summer Numeracy Training

Explore new content modules from Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry in five 1-2 hour virtual professional development sessions. Learn innovative pedagogical approaches to engage your students and effective strategies to meet the needs of all learners in your classroom. [Register](#) to join!

- June 12 Learner-Centered Math Classroom
- June 18 High-Quality Math Tasks & Productive Struggle
- June 26 Stages of Concern (Overcoming Barriers)
- July 10 Peer Coaching Conversations
- July 17 TBD based on participant feedback

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Numeracy Leader Recruitment

As implementation begins for [Act 260](#), the LDOE is looking for Numeracy Leaders who can support the implementation efforts within their system. A Numeracy Leader will be expected to complete a grade-specific numeracy course **based on statewide pacing**, provide constructive feedback, attend monthly hour-long virtual collaborations, and plan varying supports for teachers, and school and system leaders. Although this is a voluntary position, this commitment is for the 2024-2025 school year, with the possibility of renewal on August 1, 2025. The expected time commitment will encompass a minimum of one hour per month with opportunities for additional learning and collaboration. Interested participants should complete the [registration form](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

High School Biology Transition Plan

The OpenSciEd Biology materials build on the feedback from several years of the Louisiana pilot of the original inquiryHub curriculum as well as crucial feedback provided by Louisiana teachers during the official field test of the next generation of these materials. While the foundational inquiryHub curriculum will remain available through 2027, professional learning will no longer be available. With this, the high-quality pilot status of inquiryHub Biology will end after the 2024-2025 school year. The LDOE will continue to release guidance on the [K-12 Science Resources](#) web page to assist schools and systems during this transition.

Educators interested in learning more about the professional learning on the OpenSciEd curriculum offered by the inquiryHub team, please visit the [inquiryHub Professional Learning website](#) for more information.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

High School Science Professional Learning

The LDOE is hosting a series of in-person, regional [high school science professional learning opportunities](#) this summer for biology, chemistry, and physics teachers and leaders in public and Type II charter schools. The purpose of these sessions is to prepare educators to implement OpenSciEd High School units in the upcoming school year. To request a seat in the training, please have each prospective participant complete the [registration form](#) by **May 24** as seating is limited.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Rolling Updates to Science Implementation Guidance

The LDOE is updating implementation guidance for [high-quality instructional materials](#) in science. The first round of updates includes more specific information to assist with pacing. The revised [Louisiana Guide to Implementing OpenSciEd for Grade 7](#) is now available, with Grade 6 and Grade 8 coming soon. Louisiana guides for implementing all high-quality science instructional materials will continue to be released on a rolling basis for the 2024-2025 school year.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

K-12 Computer Science Standards Writing Committee

Louisiana is currently engaged in the process of professional academic content standard setting for K-12 Computer Science to increase digital literacy skills through engagement with a progression of computer science concepts and experiences which prepare all students for success in society and future career opportunities. Thirteen Louisiana educators as well as representatives from Louisiana business and industry, universities, parent and community groups, and two Louisiana students will participate in the development of new K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science by taking part in standards over the next several months.

Meeting Dates:

- May 7
- June 7 and 20
- July 11 and 30
- August 13 and 27

All meetings are open to the public and will be held at the Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

STEM Renaissance

[STEM 9-12 Pathways](#) are experiencing a new and revised structure beginning with the freshmen class entering the 2024-2025 school year. The new STEM Pathway structure will offer

- students more course choice options to meet requirements,
- an expanded opportunity for students to attain Industry Based Credentials, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment credit at the Silver STEM Seal earners,
- a content-focused approach to course organization which yields five targeted paths of study, and
- an additional science or math course offering for Gold STEM Seal earners.

The new STEM Pathways briefs, a webinar, and counselor resources are available on the [STEM](#) web page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

STEM Leadership Cohort II Learning Series

Join the LASTEM Region 4 STEM Network Center for a two-day in-person training, July 23-24 to be held at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Center for Excellence in Education. This series is designed to prepare educators to lead local STEM initiatives and improve STEM outcomes for all Louisiana students.

Participants will:

- examine models of quality STEM learning environments and research-based strategies with a deep focus on mentoring classroom teachers to build content knowledge and instructional capacity, and
- develop action plans that include innovative solutions for real-world problems in STEM education specific to their classroom, school campus, or school system.

Interested educators and leaders should [register](#) to secure a spot at no cost, but space is limited.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Kami Virtual and Face to Face Trainings

This summer, embrace the opportunity to enhance your digital teaching toolkit! The LDOE is thrilled to announce a series of professional learning sessions focused on how Kami supports HQIM implementation in addition to increasing student accessibility to resources and opportunities to collaborate. The upgraded version of Kami is available to teachers in Louisiana beginning now through the 2024-2025 school year.

Summer Webinar Series

The LDOE will host a [comprehensive webinar series](#) designed to help educators integrate Kami into the classrooms and unlock its full potential for engaging and effective instruction. Morning and afternoon sessions will be held twice a week on a range of topics from June 4 - July 18. Sessions will be recorded and posted on our [Digital Learning website](#).

Kami Regional Tour

The LDOE will also host six regional face-to-face professional learning opportunities July 24-26. Sessions will be offered in the following locations:

- July 24 - Calcasieu Parish
- July 24 - Lafayette Parish
- July 25 - Bossier Parish
- July 26 - Jefferson Parish
- July 26 - Lincoln Parish
- July 26 - East Baton Rouge Parish

Mark your calendars and [register](#) today!

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

End-of-Year Google Classroom Close-Out

As we approach the conclusion of another school year, it is critical to ensure our digital environments are as organized and prepared for closure as our physical classrooms. Here are steps to close out your Google Classrooms:

Steps to Close Out Your Google Classroom:

- Step 1: Return All Work. Ensure that all assignments have been graded and returned to students.
- Step 2: Archive Your Class. Archiving the class prevents any further changes to assignments or postings but keeps all data accessible for future reference. Remember, archived classes can be restored if needed.
- Step 3: Communicate with Students and Parents. Send out a final announcement summarizing the year and informing them about the archival of the classroom.

- Step 4: Organize Your Drive. Take time to organize Google Classroom folders, delete unnecessary files, and back up important materials.
- [Other steps to consider](#) are making copies of your archived Classrooms to prepare for the next school year and hiding your Classroom Google Calendar.

Closing out your Google Classroom not only helps in maintaining an organized digital space but also in safeguarding student information and preparing for future educational endeavors. More EdTech resources can be found on our [Digital Learning web page](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Great Minds® Science Content Leader Program 2024-2025

Great Minds® is enrolling participants for their Content Leader Program for the 2024-2025 school year. As a [professional learning partner](#) in the [LDOE Content Leader Initiative](#) and the creators of PhD Science®, they are uniquely positioned to offer training to help Louisiana educators effectively implement high-quality instruction into their classrooms. Visit the [Great Minds® Louisiana Content Leader website](#) for more information.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

2024 Presidential Awards for Mathematics and Science Teaching Finalists Announced

The [Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#) is the highest and most prestigious honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. The LDOE is pleased to announce the finalists representing Louisiana for this award. These teachers are recognized not only for their deep content knowledge in the subjects they teach but also for their ability to motivate and enable students to be successful.

Louisiana finalists in math are:

- Emily Carmichael, Sterlington Elementary School, Ouachita Parish
- Trisha Fos, LSU Laboratory School
- Amy Taylor, University Elementary, Caddo Parish

Louisiana finalists in science are:

- Jennifer Callender, Sterlington Elementary School, Ouachita Parish
- Jodie Landry, Ernest Gallet Elementary, Lafayette Parish
- Beth Olivier, Mulberry Elementary, Terrebonne Parish

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

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