

The Teacher's Circle
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Dear workshop participant,

Welcome once again to The Teacher's Circle. We are looking forward to an exciting and fruitful week at the American Institute of Mathematics (AIM) this August 14-18. To help you prepare for this workshop we have assembled materials which provide more specific details regarding the program schedule and site, a sneak preview of the mathematics we will be exploring, and a brief introduction to the people who will be leading our sessions. Our hope is that you will find the program to be a welcome inspiration heading into the school year and an ongoing resource during the subsequent months.

One of the goals of The Teacher's Circle is to help participants experience the process of learning mathematics first hand. Since you are all well-versed in the standard curriculum we will present a number of topics which are fully accessible to middle schools students, but which may not be so familiar. This will serve the two-fold purpose of helping participants regain their students' perspective while observing new teaching styles, as well as providing them with a variety of enrichment topics with which to enliven their classroom or math club. However, as we all know, learning is hard work. Please be encouraged by the fact that the reward of discovering and mastering a mathematical idea is well worth the effort both for us and our students. The enclosed sheets of questions will help give a sense of some of the mathematics we will cover together. Feel free to work on as many of them as intrigue you.

If you have any questions that are not answered on one of the ensuing pages please do not hesitate to contact us at one of the addresses listed above. Finally, best wishes for a very relaxing and refreshing summer.

Sincerely,

Sam Vandervelde