

ICTM Candidate: Short Bio and Statement

Sara Curran



Candidate Name: Sara Curran

Current Position: Fourth Grade Teacher in Oswego Community Unit School District 308

Past Experience:

- Oswego CUSD 308, Fourth Grade Teacher, 2000-present
- University of St. Francis, Adjunct Professor, 2011-2012
- Oswego CUSD 308, Summer School Math and Writing Teacher, 2002-2005

Education:

- Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with Specialization in Curriculum Leadership, Northern Illinois University, 2017
- Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, Olivet Nazarene University, 2007
- Bachelor of Science in Education with Major in Elementary Education and Concentration in Mathematics, Eastern Illinois University, 2000
- School Improvement Leadership Endorsement Program, Olivet Nazarene University, 2013
- Middle School Mathematics Endorsement
- General Administrative Endorsement
- Gifted Education Teacher Endorsements, K-4 and 5-8
- National Board Middle Childhood Generalist Endorsement

Other Professional Activities:

- Attended meetings of the Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago
- Participated in Kappa Delta Pi online seminars
- Presented at district meetings to elementary teachers regarding mathematics, differentiation, and writing instructional techniques
- Served on several district and school committees

Other Affiliations and Memberships (e.g., NCTM, NSTA, ISTA, MMC)

- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society
- National Education Association
- Illinois Education Association
- Oswego Education Association

Honors or Recognitions:

- Nominated by principals for the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society's Honor an Educator Award in the area of language arts instruction (2005)
- "Greater Than Less Than Manipulative" and "It's a Geometry Jungle Out There" mathematics strategies published in *Building Math Basics* (2005)
- Nominated by a former student and selected for the "Teacher Feature" section in *The Beacon-News* newspaper (2011)

Candidate Statements

How have you contributed to and/or been a leader in mathematics education?

In past years, I have presented at school and district meetings regarding mathematics instruction and differentiation strategies. I have worked to develop instructional strategies, which meet the needs of all of my students, including gifted learners, English learners, and students with IEPs in mathematics. Recently, I completed my doctoral dissertation with a focus on ability grouping in mathematics education. The dissertation process allowed me to investigate mathematical trends and emphases over the last few decades to increase my overall knowledge of the mathematics education field.

What role do you think ICTM can play in mathematics education in Illinois?

I view ICTM as the leader in mathematics education in Illinois. ICTM provides a platform for discourse concerning the best mathematics education for our students. ICTM allows mathematics educators to interact virtually and in person, share resources and lessons, and grow as educators to be at the cutting edge of mathematics instruction. ICTM assists educators of diverse teaching backgrounds in meeting the needs of all student populations.

How do you see yourself being active in and/or contributing to ICTM during your term?

I have always been passionate about mathematics instruction and curricular design and hope to bring this passion to the ICTM Board. I would like to see an increase in involvement in ICTM, especially at the elementary level. Building a greater awareness of ICTM events is key to involving more educators in its mission. I hope to ensure relevant topics, lessons, and strategies are provided during webinars, conferences, and in the *ICTM Bulletin* to meet the needs of all mathematics teachers.