

## History

According to the Math Teachers' Circle Network: The first Math Teachers' Circle in the U.S. was started at the American Institute of Mathematics in 2006. The idea came from Mary Fay-Zenk, a middle school teacher and veteran math team coach who regularly attended meetings of the San Jose Math Circle with her students and thought that middle school math teachers would enjoy having their own forum to enrich their problem-solving skills, share ideas about pedagogy, and develop a professional support network.

The Chippewa Valley Math Teachers' Circle team attended a 5-day summer workshop in San Jose, CA in 2011 organized by the American Institute of Mathematics. There the team participated in typical Math Teachers' Circle activities and learned how other educators have created their own Math Teachers' Circles.

## CVMTC Team

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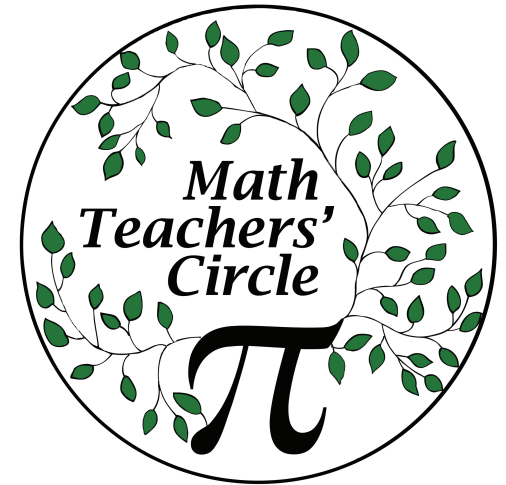
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- The American Institute of Mathematics
- The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute
- The Ann Marie Foundation
- Xcel Energy

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Eau Claire  
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## Chippewa Valley



## CVMTC



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ChippewaValley](http://www.facebook.com/MathTeachersCircleChippewaValley)

## What is a Math Teachers' Circle?

A Math Teachers' Circle engages math teachers in mathematical problem solving and involves them in an ongoing dialogue about mathematics with students, colleagues, and professional mathematicians. While primarily focused on middle school teachers, interested high school teachers may also attend.

Each session is focused on problem-solving by providing a specific yet open-ended mathematical problem to collaborate on with fellow teachers. In addition, there is plenty of time to socialize, discuss classroom experiences, pedagogy, and share a meal. Typically they meet once-a-month either in the evening or on a weekend.

For more information about math teachers' circles in general:

<http://www.mathteacherscircle.org/>

## Monthly Gatherings Fall 2012

Second Monday of the month

September 10th: *Enjoying mathematics with the game of Set*. Richard Spindler (UWEC).

October 8th: *Probability: A gentle introduction to problems involving randomness*. Ruth Carlson (CVTC).

November 12th: *The queen of mathematics: exploring numbers*. Ryan Harrison (UWEC).

5:30 - 7:30 pm

UW-Eau Claire  
Hibbard Hall  
Room 231  
Eau Claire, WI

**Dinner provided!**

## Why Should You Get Involved in a Circle?

There are many good reasons:

- To collaborate with local math teachers and university instructors
- To renew your excitement about math
- To gain confidence with familiar and new mathematical concepts
- To learn new ideas to use in your teaching
- To eat free great food!



By fostering the confidence to tackle open-ended math problems, middle school teachers become better equipped to initiate more student-centered, inquiry-based pedagogies in their classrooms.