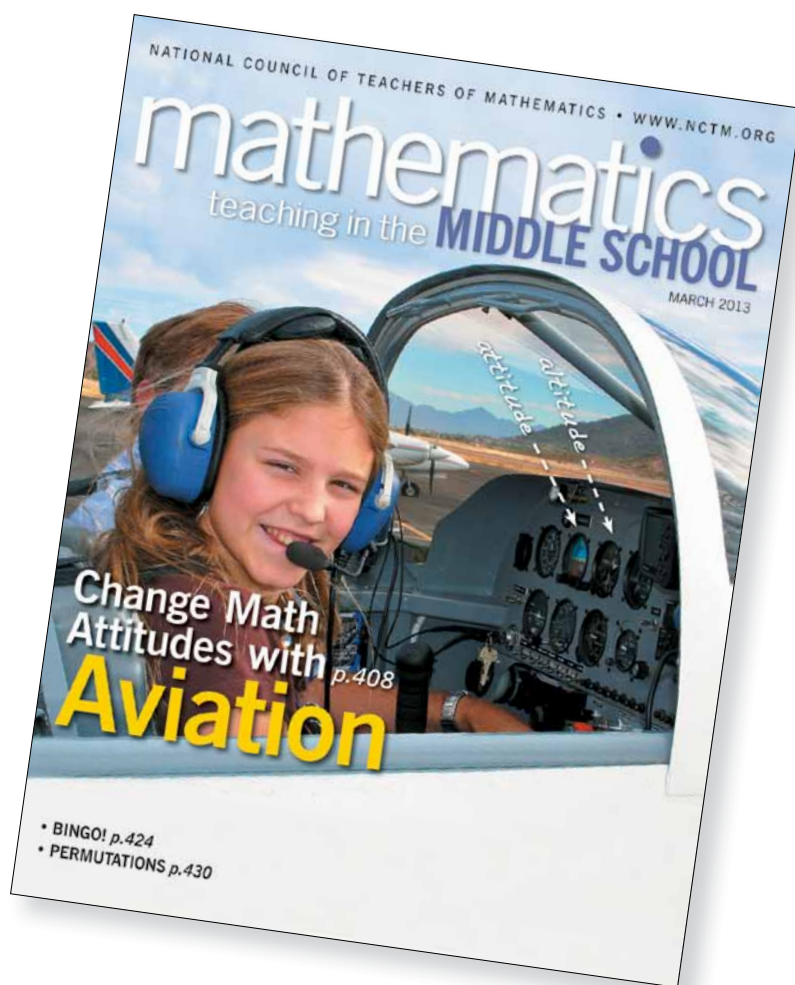


# The *MTMS* Word Problem



The Editorial Panel of *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* (*MTMS*) is proud of the journal that we publish. The biannual readership survey reveals that our readers overwhelmingly find value in the articles and departments we publish. We also know that our readers are loyal and engaged. However, we continue to ask ourselves,

How can we do better?

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Twenty years ago when *MTMS* was being developed, there were nationwide conversations about the terms *middle school* and *junior high school*. Those conversations are less frequent,

and we believe that the journal serving middle-level mathematics educators could better serve the mathematics education community without mention of a designated level. We suspect that the name *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* may be limiting our appeal. Anecdotally, we have been told that the content of *MTMS* is useful to many educators other than those who teach middle school mathematics. Just as *Mathematics Teacher* and *Teaching Children Mathematics* are descriptive without using the labels “high school” or “elementary school,” *MTMS* might better serve a wider range of educators without the words “middle school” in the nameplate.

The Common Core State Standards for Mathematics attempts to standardize the learning continuum and benchmarks, but we know that schools, teachers, and students are not uniform. Not all students learn the same material at the same pace. Not all schools and districts adhere to the same curriculum and teach the same content at each grade. Many teachers remediate and find themselves discussing middle school topics in a high school class. Other teachers explore algebra and geometry, topics often considered in grades 5 through 9, in an elementary school building. Many educators who do not identify themselves as middle school teachers can benefit from the information contained in *MTMS*.

Many of us remember when the NCTM school journals were positioned on a wall rack in the library. The journals *Mathematics Teacher* and *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* sat alongside each other in the display. Now journals are positioned on a phone, tablet, or computer and accessed through search engines and key words. Therefore, we believe that the time has come for *MTMS* to reconsider its name.

### WHAT IS THE MTMS WORD PROBLEM?

The problem we are asking readers to solve is this:

Which word or words should be used in a new journal title?

To that end, the *MTMS* Editorial Panel would like to involve readers and others within the greater mathematics education community by holding a contest to select a new name. We know that the *MTMS* audience is clever and involved, so we would like to hear from you. You will find the specifics for the contest below and at this site: [www.nctm.org/mtmswordproblem](http://www.nctm.org/mtmswordproblem)

We are pleased to involve you in the process of renaming *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* and are looking forward to your suggestions. But most of all, we can't wait to have a new name for the journal!

*The MTMS Editorial Panel*

# The *MTMS* Word Problem

The Editorial Panel of *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* is asking readers to help solve the *MTMS* Word Problem:

## Which word or words should be used in a new journal title?

Just as *Mathematics Teacher* and *Teaching Children Mathematics* are descriptive without using the labels “high school” or “elementary school,” *MTMS* might better serve a wider range of educators without the words “middle school.” What better source for a new title than our readers? Get creative, and send us your favorite names. The rationale of the Editorial Panel and more information are available online at [www.nctm.org/mtmswordproblem](http://www.nctm.org/mtmswordproblem).

Submit your most creative names through [www.nctm.org/mtmswordproblem](http://www.nctm.org/mtmswordproblem) by **May 15, 2013**. The Editorial Panel will select four to six choices that will be voted on by *MTMS* readers in September 2013. The most popular name will be presented to the NCTM Board of Directors. Those who submitted the four to six nominated names will each win a \$50 gift certificate to the NCTM bookstore. The individual who submits the winning entry will receive an iPad® and will be featured in the first issue of the newly named journal in August 2014.