The Logistics of Your MTC: Successful Models

Logistics Overview

• General structure of your MTC
  – Workshops
  – Academic-Year Meetings
• Online presence
• Administration of your MTC
General Structure

- Workshop
- Academic-Year Meetings

Workshop

- Intensive experience focused on mathematics and creating community
- Recommended as the initial “big event” for a new MTC
- Length can vary from 1 to 5 days
- Supported MTCs should plan on at least 3 full days, with the Circle Mentor helping out for the first 2 days
Academic-Year Meetings

- 6 to 8 per year
- Usually 2 to 3 hours long, including a meal and 1.5 to 2 hours focused on doing mathematics

Three Examples of MTC Structure

- MTC of Austin, Austin, TX
- North Louisiana MTC, Shreveport, LA
- Casco Bay MTC, Falmouth/Portland, ME
MTC of Austin

• [https://sites.google.com/site/mtcaustin/](https://sites.google.com/site/mtcaustin/)
• Founded 2010
• Recruitment events
  – Held three spring meetings for practice and to recruit participants

MTC of Austin

• Workshops
  – Held a 5-day residential immersion workshop in Summer 2010, sponsored by the Educational Advancement Foundation
  – All expenses paid and Continuing Professional Education units available; no stipends
  – In subsequent years, 1- to 2-day kickoff workshops in August to get people excited about the upcoming year
MTC of Austin

• Academic-year meetings:
  – 7 meetings per year (3 fall, 4 spring)
  – Held on UT Austin campus
  – 6-8 p.m. on Thursday evenings
  – Dinner first, then math session starts at 6:30 and runs until 8
  – Continuing Professional Education units available
  – Free parking!
  – Typically have 20-25 participants

• Discussion of classroom connections is informal during year and more formal during summer

MTC of Austin

• Support for academic-year meetings now primarily comes from the UT Austin math department and outreach portions of faculty grants
North Louisiana MTC

• [http://www.mathteacherscircle.org/member-circles/nlmtc/](http://www.mathteacherscircle.org/member-circles/nlmtc/)
• Founded 2010
• Recruitment events
  – One fall and one spring
  – Invited some key administrators as well as teachers
  – Press releases led to a radio interview and newspaper article about the group

North Louisiana MTC

• Workshop
  – Held a 4-day nonresidential immersion workshop in Summer 2010 funded by the Foundation for the Mid South
  – Teachers received stipends of $100/day (consistent with local norms)
North Louisiana MTC

• Academic-year meetings
  – 6 per year
  – Held on LSU Shreveport campus
  – 5-8 on Mondays
  – Start with a catered meal
  – Time for teachers to discuss what they’ve tried out in their classrooms
  – Then math session
  – Often have a door prize or take-home goodies
  – Typically have 20-25 participants

Casco Bay MTC

• [https://sites.google.com/a/falmouthschools.org/casco-bay-math-teachers-circle/home](https://sites.google.com/a/falmouthschools.org/casco-bay-math-teachers-circle/home)
• Founded 2011
• Recruitment event in Spring 2011
• Workshop: One day workshop in Summer 2011
Casco Bay MTC

• Academic-year meetings
  – 5-6 per year
  – Held on the University of Southern Maine campus
  – 4-6:30 on Wednesdays
  – Pizza, sandwiches, or light refreshments
  – Start with a game for about 20 minutes, then a quick
debrief, and then a teacher and a mathematician co-lead the session for 2 hours
    • Team meets 3-4 weeks before each session to do a dry run of the problem, plan the pacing, and talk about the next session
  – Typically have 20-30 participants
    • Some are from a group of teachers that used to meet prior to learning about MTCs

Workshop variations

• Away workshop (residential in another location)
  – Albuquerque (Taos), Colorado Springs (Breckenridge or Estes Park), New York (Bard College), Philadelphia and Tulsa (nearby retreat centers)

• Summer workshops open to both new and experienced participants
  – Albuquerque, Denver, Bay Area Circle for Teachers, AIM

• One-day weekend workshops open to all
  – AIM, Albuquerque, Austin
Academic-year meeting variations

• Meet on Saturdays to get around transportation hurdles
  – Denver, Hawai‘i, San Diego
• Meet at different locations to be closer to different people

Pedagogical component

• How might MTCs dovetail with other professional development opportunities available to teachers in our area?
• What else can our MTC do to support teachers’ needs?
Pedagogical component ideas

- Primarily informal
- Semi-formal discussion of what teachers have tried since the last MTC meeting
- Discussion of pedagogical aspects of MTC session
- Last part of MTC session devoted to classroom connections, connecting to the Common Core, and/or teacher-led presentations/discussions
- Separate meetings devoted to discussing implementing more problem solving and inquiry-based practices
- Teachers create lesson plans based on MTC sessions

Online Presence

- Every MTC should have at least a website and an email list.
- Some have discussion groups (sometimes integrated with email list)
- Also consider social media
MTC Administration

- Arrangements with math session leaders
- Managing email list (e.g., invitations and reminders)
- Managing website/online presence
- Meals/food
- Materials and supplies
- Teacher credits
- Tracking data (e.g., participation, basic surveys)
- Finances (e.g., honoraria, reimbursements)

Administration Models

- Divide tasks among team (possible)
  - Works best if assignments are clearly defined
- Find someone to be your MTC’s administrator (recommended)
  - Departmental staff person
  - Student worker
  - Volunteer (e.g., an AAUW member, a retired teacher, etc.)
Administration Time Commitment

• Estimated time commitment for MTC administration:
  – 10 hours per academic-year meeting
  – Variable hours for workshop, depending on length, whether it is residential or non-residential, etc.
• Checklists and a job description are available on the website

Logistics Discussion Guide

• After completing the logistics discussion guide, you should be ready to share:
  – Dates, location, and draft schedule for your workshop
  – Dates and location for your academic-year meetings
  – Your plan for your MTC’s online presence
  – How you will handle the administration of your MTC