

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2019 | Issue No. 8

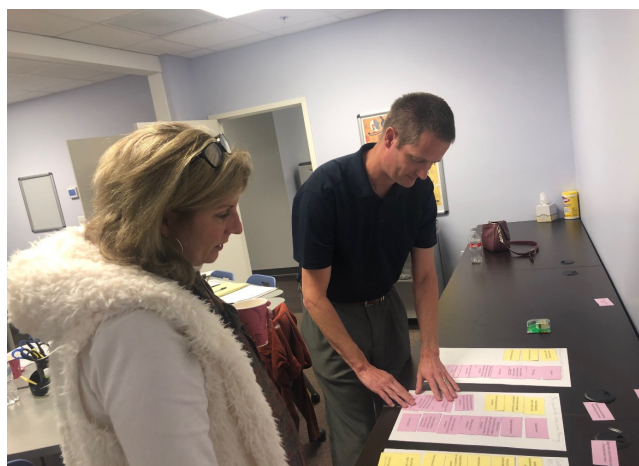
The AMSTI-USA Monthly Newsletter is published on the first business day of each month. All issues are archived on the AMSTI-USA page [HERE](#)  
For questions or comments, please email Cassie Haywood at [chaywood@southalabama.edu](mailto:chaywood@southalabama.edu).

## From Leadership

### A Leader's Impact

Raphaella Archie | Assistant Director

A group of Mobile County Public School leaders have partnered with AMSTI to participate in the PLU #9 (Professional Learning Unit), "A Leader's Impact on Teachers, Students, and Content." Administrators from Griggs, Kate Shepard and Semmes Elementary have studied research-based practices to refine opportunities for teacher collaboration in their schools. Teacher collaboration is a key factor in improving student learning. These administrators have created structures and protocols that are necessary to instill a culture of meaningful collaboration and continuous improvement in teachers' professional development. In the up-coming sessions, this team will explore collecting fine-grained, non-judgmental evidence through video analysis to improve instructional practices.



Also join AMSTI for the upcoming PLU #13: "Leading in an AMSTI School- Examining the Instructional Shifts and Best Practices for Math and Science Instruction", beginning March 1, 2019. The purpose of this professional study is to provide learning as it pertains to the AMSTI methodology and process. New AMSTI schools or new administrators at AMSTI schools are encouraged to participate.



**Registration link:**

<https://goo.gl/forms/sb5Ce08BXg0UhAu32>

Thank you for your continuous efforts in educating the children of Alabama Region 10.

# Materials Corner

## AMSTI-USA welcomes new Assistant Materials Manager to our team!



Angel Madera, Jr. | Assistant Materials Manager

### **“Such a pleasure to join the AMSTI-USA Team!”**

Hello Everyone,

My name is Angel Madera Jr., and I recently joined AMSTI-USA as the new Assistant Materials Manager / Distribution Supervisor at the Mobile, Alabama site.

I'm very excited to be a part of this team and offer my experience and knowledge in helping to manage inventory as well as maintain a safe and well-organized warehouse. I love the mission of the AMSTI initiative, as it is so important for our teachers to have quality math and science materials to enhance the learning opportunities for their students.

I come to AMSTI-USA, with eight years' experience as a Safety Supervisor, thirteen years' experience as a Lead Warehouseman, and four years' experience as a Project Specialist. I particularly enjoy the safety and distribution fields.

On the weekends and during time off, I enjoy writing and landscape/nature photography. You'll often find me walking in the forest, along a beach on the Gulf coast, or sight-seeing down the plentiful country roads of Alabama.



**If you are ever in town visiting our location and you have a minute, come on back to the warehouse and say hello!**

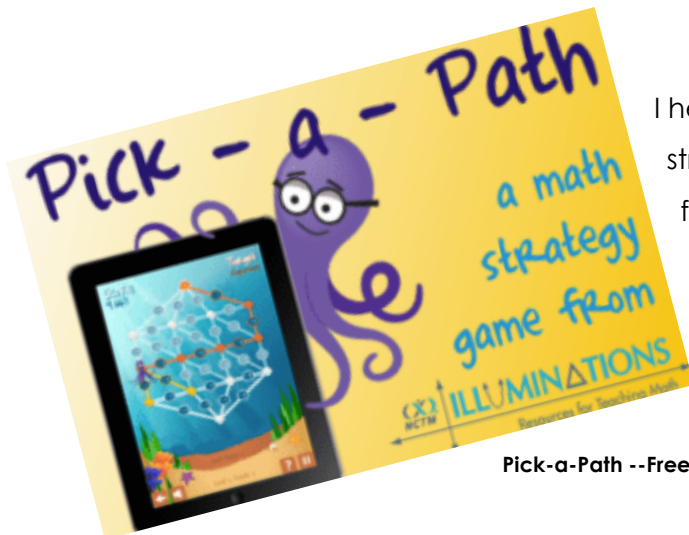
“Angel continues to prove himself valuable each day. He is always helpful and has already improved some of our procedures. I look forward to collaborating with him for many years to come.”

Susan Andress | Business Manager

# Math Highlights

## Pick-A-Path

By Dyeatra Todd



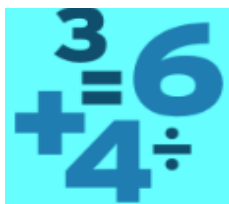
I hear teachers constantly speak of students struggling with multiplication, division, and fractions. This game includes seven levels of play! Each level emphasizes a different skill.

**Pick-a-Path --Free on the App Store for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students**

- levels one – three emphasize multiplication and division
- levels four – six emphasize operations with fractions and decimals
- level seven emphasizes operations with exponents

Each game increases in difficulty to allow for more practice. Within each game, students have the opportunity to create a path, adding and deleting pieces of the path until they achieve the goal. Even if students make it to the end of the path and are unsuccessful, they have the opportunity to go back and choose another path in order to achieve the goal. Teachers can also find an extensive teacher's guide on NCTM's Illuminations website.

<https://www.nctm.org/Classroom-Resources/Illuminations/Interactives/Pick-a-Path/>



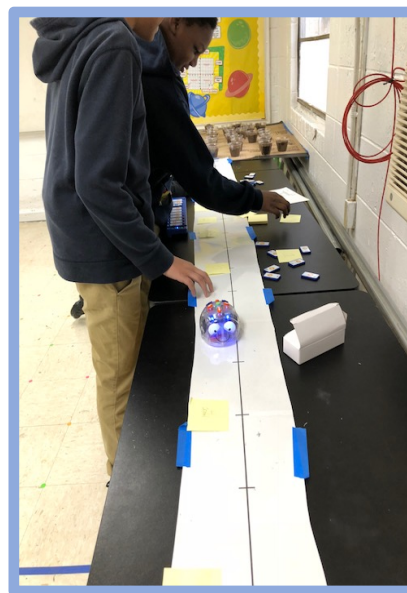
# Math Highlights

## AMSTI-USA Math Content

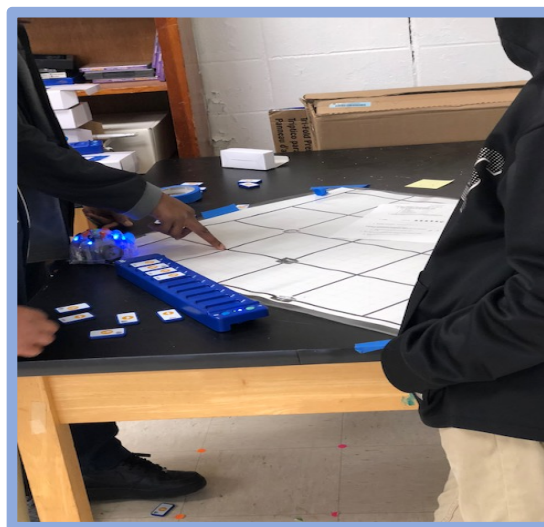
By Elizabeth Hammond

### Blue-Bots, Digital Literacy, and Mathematics

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students at Monroe Intermediate School explored the digital literacy standards while learning math content. They utilized Blue-Bot robots to go from location to location on the coordinate plane and the number line.



Students had to determine a function, set of steps, or a sequence to take Blue-Bot to each location. At the same time, students were exploring integer addition and subtraction on the number line as well as distance and coordinate points on the coordinate plane. Students were able to “debug” basic programming and connect that to errors mathematically.





# Science Highlights

## Golden Apple Teacher Award

By Christine Sealy



April Paul, a second-grade teacher from Elberta Elementary School, was given The Golden Apple Award by WKRG News 5. The award is given to teachers who go above and beyond for their students.

Mrs. Paul is an AMSTI teacher, who has been teaching for 15 years. She was nominated for this award by one of her students.

***Thank you, Mrs. Paul, for going the extra mile for your students!***