

Dear Families,

You are important. We need your support to ensure the brightest possible future for your child as a mathematician. Research shows that your attitude, beliefs, and behavior go a long way toward your child's success. Here are some things I'd like you to know and some ways that you can actively help.

Math is important. Students who succeed at math have higher chances of graduating high school and going to college with scholarships. Math success opens doors to career opportunities. Also, learning math is a process of learning problem-solving skills that can be applied in other areas of life.

Math can be challenging. Part of learning math is struggling to understand, persevering through challenges, and learning from mistakes. The math your child is doing now may not look like the math you did in school, and yet coming alongside them, you can model the same qualities of curiosity and determination they need to succeed.

Here are some ways you can help:

- * Notice and name: Talk with your child about how you use math in daily life. Help them to understand its importance.
- * Become the learner: Invite your child to teach you the math they are exploring at school. If you don't quite understand, ask them questions. If you are still confused, ask the teacher for resources to support you.
- * Suspend disbelief: While the format or content may look unfamiliar, remember the goal of developing problem solvers who know how to make sense of their work. Stay positive.
- * Cultivate a growth mindset: Compliment effort and perseverance, rather than perfect scores or right answers. Remind your child (and yourself) that understanding takes time and effort.
- * Learn more math: There are an abundance of online resources for learning math through progressive approaches. Enjoy them!

You are an important ally in your child's education. Understanding and embracing new developments in math instruction show your learner that you are ready and able to change with the times, and that you are behind them all the way into the future.

In sincere gratitude for your efforts,

Resources for Math at Home

- * DREME Family Math (website with resources and tasks)
- * JUMP math (skills practice books available on Amazon)
- * Khan Academy (explanations and practice problems at all levels)
- * "Math: Why doesn't yours look like mine?" (blog post I wrote about parents' roles)
- * NCTM Figure This (website with searchable tasks)