

Math Lives Here: Helping Social Justice Take Flight

Junior Students: A Community in Transition – Math is Personal

>> I was not good, like, in math at all. And I don't appreciate math as much. I don't like math. I'm not really into math. But my teacher made me like math, because there's so many ways he changes it to something so small to something big. And it changed me a lot. And it's been very different for me right now in Mr. Vente's class, because he turns math into something so creative and so cool.

>> I want to encourage students who have different abilities to be able to do the math in different ways. What math is, really is all problem solving, and about all the things you can do to problem solve in life, right? I'm not going to just find one strategy. I'm going to find multiple strategies to figure out a problem, not just in math, but also in the real world.

>> It's more a -- it's more interesting, it's fun. It's something that you get to express your art, and as well as math. You get to work with friends. And it's an experience that you may not be doing in a normal class. And things that, like, you can use to kind of learn math in a way that's more comfortable for you.

>> I learned in mathematics that there is a lot of art in it. And I had thought math was only, like, calculating. I figured out everything around here -- this is art, let's say this table, like they designed it, right, that used math. And this is also part of math.

>> The connections we made with math was that math is kind of a way to express yourself and to understand situations better than you really would have if you hadn't known math. It's kind of something that just -- it's something that expresses you.

>> I think one of the things is that they're seeing math as more than just numbers, more than just addition, more than just subtraction and multiplication and division. For me, thinking about the processes, and also thinking about the math thinking. I want to see that they're able to problem solve. I want to see that they have the flexibility in their thinking because like I said, there's no one right way to get to an answer, there's many ways. And I think an indicator of that flexibility is being able to find those different ways to do it.