

Teaching the Beauty of Math

Math is beautiful. Math is all around us. The cell phone you carry in your pocket is powered by math. Explorers used math to find their way across oceans. NASA used math to send humans to the moon. You use math when you bake a cake or cook *goya champuru*. We add, subtract, divide, and multiply a hundred times a day when we go shopping, pay the check at a restaurant, or think about how long it will take to get to school. We cannot live without math.

Bertrand Russell, a famous English philosopher and mathematician, said that “Mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty.”

It is my dream to teach the beauty of math. I believe that a good teacher has to love what they teach. I love math, and I want to share this love with my students.

I began to change my mind about math when I met Mr. Maeda, my first high school math teacher. He always taught class with a smile, and I felt that he truly loved teaching us, so I began to enjoy his class and came to like math more and more. I realized that good teachers should love their students. If they love what they teach and they love their students, their students will come to love learning.

However, as many of you know, not all students like math. They think that it won't be necessary in their future. Many of my friends complain about math homework and tests. They seem to give up too easily when trying to understand math problems, so I decided to help them by becoming their tutor.

I use a stamp sheet to motivate them. If they try hard and improve their test scores then I give them a cute stamp. If they get thirty stamps then I give them snacks or chocolate. So far, five of my friends have improved their test scores.

However, after helping my friends, I realized that sometimes it is difficult to make myself understood. In order to help them, I also have to master the math problems that they can't solve. This means that I have to focus more and study harder. When I saw that I made a difference in my friends' attitudes about math, I knew that I wanted to be a teacher.

After graduating from high school, I have to go to university and study as hard as I can. I need to gain the necessary skills to become a great math teacher. I need to learn how to make my students love what I teach. I want to be a teacher who makes students smile when they think about math. I need to show them the beauty of math.

Another famous mathematician, Paul Erdős, said this about math:

"Why are numbers beautiful? It's like asking why is Beethoven's Ninth Symphony beautiful. If you don't see why, someone can't tell you. I *know* numbers are beautiful. If they aren't beautiful, nothing is."

I like this quote, but I disagree with him when he says that "someone can't tell you" why math is beautiful. Maybe we just need someone like Mr. Maeda to show us what we could not see before.

The next time you think you hate math, consider how without it, you would not be able to drive your car, fly in a plane, or turn on the TV. I hope that you consider the beauty of math, and it makes you smile.