



Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

Math Department - May 2020

Board Game Fun in Math

For a while now, math educators have noted how board games hit a lot of the curricular areas we like in our classrooms. Things like problem solving, critical thinking, pattern recognition, and strategic planning to name just a few. To spice things up for our all period days, we acquired the services of Across the Board to bring a variety of board games to our school and to teach our students how to play. The result was an afternoon of fun and learning for multiple math classes where the students got the chance to practice skills that are invaluable in a math classroom.





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After the success of two Across the Board all period days, it was decided that the Garden City Collegiate Math Department would begin building its own board game library so that our students could benefit more often than once a semester during all period days. A quick visit to Game Knight and we now have that library ready to go. Fortunately, we were able to use the games once for an all period day before schools closed and we are looking forward to using them again next year!



Math Department – June 2020

Looking at developments in mathematics from other cultures

Considering the current climate where everyone is looking at racial equality, some attention has been directed towards education. As a Math teacher, my first thought was about how this sounds like something for other classes to teach. I just teach numbers, don't I? Then it struck me. The name of every famous mathematician that I know of, and every mathematician I teach about in my class, is a white male European. I recognized that it couldn't be true that only white men made discoveries in the field of mathematics, so I sought to educate myself on the role individuals from other cultures, genders, and sexual orientations made in the world of mathematics.

After a lot of research, I made quite a few discoveries. I learned about Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi, the middle-eastern man who invented algebra. His book Al-Jabr is where algebra gets its name. I learned about Gregorio Y. Zara, a Filipino man who invented the first two-way video phone and discovered the Zara effect. I learned about Brahmagupta, an Indian man who discovered how zero is a number that we can use in arithmetic just like any other number. I learned about Chien-Shiung Wu, a Chinese-American woman who worked on the Manhattan Project and developed the Wu experiment. These are just a few of the mathematicians, engineers, and scientists from places outside of Europe that have made significant contributions to the world of mathematics. I had to share what I learned with my students and I made a video lesson for them exploring the stories of a few of these important. The video can be found at https://youtu.be/nv_HZiBvD7c.

-Stephen Bishop