A Parent's Role
(thoughts from a BHS parent/mathematician)

BHS Math Website:
https://sites.google.com/berkeley.net/mathematicsdepartment/home
Parent Math Website
https://sites.google.com/site/bhsmathassist/home
Math: useful, beautiful, awesome
Math: useful, beautiful, awesome
Math: useful, beautiful, awesome
What are the math skills we want for our kids?

**Social:**
- communicate well, understand others, work collaboratively

**Content:**
- have number sense
- understand ideas, how to flexibly fit them together

**Approach:**
- curious, active learner, sustained engagement

**Confidence:**
- *comfortable being uncomfortable*
- knowing when you know and when you don’t know
How do we get there?

Challenges:

- Emotions/attitudes around math
- Education on a tight budget
- Effectively arming a student’s support system

First steps: an action list for parents
Challenge 1: overcoming emotions and feelings

Feeling/Attitude affect performance
- Your expectations/attitude matter.
- Society’s and friend/family attitudes and stereotypes matter.

Helpful truths
- Everyone is capable of being good at math.
- Making mistakes is a key feature of learning.
- Celebrating effort rather than outcome is important

Damaging (false) narratives
- You’ve either got it or you don’t.
- You’ve got to be quick to be good.
Challenge 2: math education on a tight budget

BHS Faculty
Challenge 2: math education on a tight budget

- 5 classes a day
- 150 students a day
- Serving a wide range of strengths and weaknesses
- Overcoming negative emotional connection to math
- Closing the achievement gap
Challenge 3: learning to use resources

- Teacher
- Class
- Friends
- You
- Websites
- Tutoring

your kid
First steps: an action list for parents

In the next four weeks get your child to:

- **Friends**: Get the email or phone number of 3 kids in their class and call/email/text one of them
- **Teacher**: Visit their teacher during office hours
- **Websites**: Use websites (both BHS and parent run) to help with homework and/or study for a test
- **Tutoring**: Get a question answered at tutoring (3 options for free tutoring)
- **You**: Have 4 conversations with you about math content (applaud effort/let them teach you)

  Take Jo Boaler’s online course (and you take it as well) (about 1.5 hours total over 6 lessons)