



Math And Parent Partnerships (MAPPS): Involving Parents in the Mathematics of the Schools, Changing Attitudes about Mathematics, and Raising School-Age Competencies in Mathematics

A MAPPS Program engages parents of K-12 children in the mathematics of the schools based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards. The program empowers parents with new mathematical knowledge and with new self-confidence about learning mathematics, creates families that learn mathematics together, improves children's competencies in mathematics, and gets the broader community embracing mathematics as something everybody can do and enjoy.

Goal of MAPPS is to create, at each site, a community of parents who:

- Experience mathematics as a human activity
- Have real learning experiences with mathematics
- Do mathematics with their children
- Believe that their children can be successful at learning mathematics
- Are aware of what is happening in their children's mathematics classrooms
- Understand the connection between school mathematics and access to future careers
- Are aware of ethnic and gender biases as they relate to expectations and success in mathematics
- Form partnerships with teachers and schools in supporting good mathematical learning and teaching for their children

Description

A MAPPS Program revolves around three activities for parents: Workshops (2 hour sessions on a topic in school mathematics), Mini-Courses (each involves a commitment of eight 2-hour sessions on a major theme of school mathematics), and Leadership Development (parents become facilitators of the workshops). In each workshop and mini-course session, parents work with other parents in a relaxed setting, using hands-on materials and cooperative learning to solve math problems. They communicate their solutions in front of the whole group. They talk about how they use mathematics in everyday life and discuss their views on teaching and learning mathematics. They get excited about learning mathematics and they enjoy doing it.

Iowa Pilot Site: Storm Lake Middle School, Storm Lake, IA (Contact Karen Willis at kwillis@iowatelecom.net for additional information.)

Additional information: <http://math.arizona.edu/~mapps/>