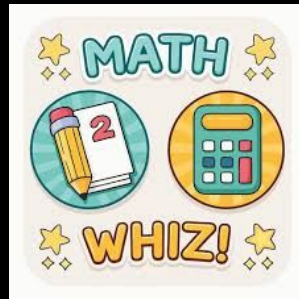


# Parent Academy

## Making Math Matter at Home



February 18, 2026

**Welcome**

**Anjanette Highsmith**

**Program Supervisor of Math and Science (K-6) &  
Instructional Technology**

**Jeffery Kurczeski**

**Program Supervisor of Math and Science (7-12) &  
Business & Technology Education (9-12)**



# Goals for Tonight

- Highlight how engaging in math activities at home can support children's learning and development.
- Learn simple and effective strategies to implement during your daily routine.
- Get practical tips and resources.



# Why Math at Home?

- **Reinforcement of School Learning**
  - Extends classroom learning.
  - Strengthens understanding and retention of math concepts.
- **Development of Problem-Solving Skills**
  - Encourages critical thinking.
  - Enhances ability to tackle various problems creatively.
- **Building Confidence in Math**
  - Regular practice builds familiarity and comfort.
  - Positive experiences lead to greater confidence in math abilities.



# Benefits for Children

- **Improved Academic Performance**
  - Consistent practice leads to better grades and understanding of math concepts and skills.
- **Encourages Lifelong Learning**
  - Fosters curiosity and enthusiasm for learning beyond the classroom.
- **Strengthens Family Bonds**
  - Opportunities for family interaction.
  - Creates a supportive home environment for learning.



# Change the Narrative Around Math

**Avoid the "I'm not a math person" trope:** If children hear that math is a fixed trait, they'll give up when it gets hard. Instead, frame math as a skill that grows with practice—much like a sport or a video game.

**Celebrate the "Struggle":** When your child gets stuck, treat it as a positive sign that their brain is working. Use phrases like, *"I love how you're trying a different way to solve this."*



# Practical Ways to Incorporate Math at Home

- **Everyday Activities**
  - Cooking: Measuring ingredients to understand fractions.
  - Shopping: Calculating total costs and discounts.
  - Time Management: Scheduling activities to practice telling time.
- **Games and Apps**
  - Use educational apps designed for math practice.
  - Board games that involve counting, strategy, and probability.
- **Real-World Problem Solving**
  - Encourage children to solve real-life math problems (e.g., calculating change).
- **Estimation Games**
  - Ask “How many” or “How long” questions without seeking a perfect answers.
  - Test the hypothesis.



# Focus on the “Why,” “Not Just the “How”

**Ask for an Explanation:** When they arrive at an answers, ask, “How do you know that’s correct?”

**Multiple Paths:** If they solve a problem one way, challenge them to find a different way to reach the same results.



# Raising Critical Thinkers

- **Think Aloud:** When solving a small problem, say your steps aloud. Then ask: “What else could I try?” or “Why did that work?”
- **Estimate Everything:** Time to school, number of chips in a bag, number of steps from the car to the door -then check and compare
- **Problem of the Week:** Post one open ended question/problem on the refrigerator and ask for at least two different ways to solve.



# Conversation Starters to Build Reasoning

- What makes you say that?
- How else could we solve it?
- What information do we need?
- What would happen if .....?
- Can you convince me?



# Imagine Learning Classroom

- Illustrative Mathematics is the district approved math program for grades K-8
- Students have access to the Imagine Learning via their Clever App
- Parents can access the Family Support Hub with or without the student's login credentials.
- If you want to closely examine the platform, you need the student's login credentials.



# Imagine Learning Classroom Family Support Hub

- [Kindergarten Family Support](#)
- [Imagine IM Family Support Hub](#)
- [For IM Parents and Guardians](#)



# Math at Rahway High School

- Many programs are approved for use at the high school level including:
  - Big Ideas Math
  - Mathspace
  - Formative
  - Renaissance
  - Khan Academy
- Students have access to these platforms through Google Classroom or Clever.
- Parents can get updates on what is happening in math by bng a Guardian in the Google Classroom.
- The high school is focused on critical thinking, igniting a passion for math, and having problem-based experiences.



# Resources



- [Math Games](#) to increase number sense
- [Math at Home](#) activities
- [Khan Academy](#) with Illustrative Mathematics for extra practice (Grades 3-8)
- [Khan Academy](#) for extra practice (Grades PreK-12)



# Questions?

Thank you for supporting your child's  
math and learning journey!

**Rahway Public Schools**

*Together, we build strong thinkers and confident learners.*



# Future Parent Academy Night

**March 25, 2026**

**Science at Home and Family Lego Night**

5:30 pm and 6:00 pm

