

Paula Stapleton
Educational Philosophy

As a teacher of Mathematics I am often asked, "Why are we learning this? When will we ever use this?" It's unfortunate that people fear math--they think they are not good at it or they do not have the mythical "math gene." Somehow, these beliefs are something that many students learn throughout the years. There is no such thing as a "math gene" and everyone is capable of being good at mathematics.

In my classroom, I approach each class differently, each year, depending on who is in front of me. What might have worked last year or last week in a particular class might not work again this year or in the following year. As I get to know my students, I develop a curriculum and a style of teaching that best suits them in that moment of time. I might be singing to my students to remind them to flip reciprocals, spending time after school tutoring to make sure my students understand the subject or working and creating hands-on activities to help my students learn the subject. I believe students learn best when we embrace the three C's: cooperation, connection, contribution.