



THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT. . .

Patience and Process

Learning ways to problem-solve is the key to success in so many endeavors including math. In order to problem-solve, you must have the patience and the tools, meaning the process, to apply to any given problem. We realize that getting the right answer is important, but it is probably even more important to develop the patience and to learn the processes and techniques to problem-solve. This is why the Anacapa math department has chosen "Patience and Process" as our theme for the year!

When students begin to problem-solve by trying a certain approach, mathematical or not, they are heading in a direction that will get them closer to a successful outcome. The more attempts they make, the closer they can get to a real answer. The quote by Thomas Edison is something to think about often: "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." So, no matter what, attempting to problem-solve using one's patience and process is beneficial.

The quadratic formula can be used in solving a particular type of quadratic problem, allowing you to solve a given type of math problem over and over; however, learning how you can apply this to a real-life situation is more thought-provoking, memorable, and useful. Not knowing exactly what to do sometimes can be a good thing. That's when the thinking can happen, and these times are our favorite moments as teachers. Liggy's classes provide techniques and guidance to students, but they don't always provide step-by-step instruction, allowing students to achieve the satisfying "aha" moment for themselves. In Geometry, the problem may be a novel construction with compass and straight edge. In Calculus, students may examine new functions not addressed in class. The process of problem-solving is the fun part!

The more brain power available, the better the outcome, so another way learning takes place in our classes is through partner work and teamwork. A main focus in Bryan's classes this year has been to have students work together to solve problems. This has shown students that they can work together to figure things out rather than relying on just the instructor for information. Some of the benefits of this approach are increased confidence, better comprehension, the team-building experience of working well with others, and even improved grades!

~ ~ Bryan Anderson and Liggy Chien

And a P.S. from Suzie Sichi

It is wonderful having Liggy Chien as our new Geometry and Calculus teacher! The enthusiasm she brings to the classroom and her personality are great to have on campus. Bryan, Liggy, and I are planning the 21st Annual Family Math Fair to be held on campus on Monday, November 24 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Please bring the entire family and some friends to this fun night of problem-solving for all age levels. We have some special innovations planned for you and look forward to seeing all of you there!