

Math is Important Because...

“It would be chaos without math,” replied one student when the class was asked why they thought math was important. The students then explained that we would have no buildings because if we tried to construct them, they would fall down. We would also have no money, so how would we be able to get what we need? Also mentioned was the fact we would have no vehicles because we wouldn’t even be able to make wheels. If you needed medicine, there would be no way to measure it, so you would probably die from receiving the wrong dose.

Each year, I hear “When am I ever going to use this?” For some math topics, I know immediately. However, sometimes it will depend on their future careers. So, my most basic reason is as follows: In America, the government does not decide your job for you. And since we, as educators, do not know what job you may hold when you graduate, whether from high school, tech school, or a college program, we do our best to prepare you with different types of math. Students may not need to use all the math taught in high school, but they will need to know a variety of math topics to open educational and career opportunities.

When we talk about literacy in school, most people think it refers to reading and writing. But I would propose that our students must also be mathematically literate. We live in a numbers-based culture and it is essential that our students be well equipped to function successfully in our society.

-- Mrs. Leinen, 6-12 Math Instructor