The Unsuspecting Parent Math Circle

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Bedtime Math and Crazy 8’s
Getting Started

• MAA Summer 2021 Virtual Programming: How to Run Successful Math Circles for Students and Teachers

• Conversation with Dr. David Burton

• Conversation with Office of Campus Safety
Getting Going

• Contacting Crazy 8’s

• Google form and advertising

• Securing location and helpers
Parent Activities

• JRMF activities: Gerrymandering, Lots of Plots and Staircases

• Complement the kids activities: Cryptography, Magic Squares with Cards and Mathematical Card Tricks

• Other topics I wanted to cover: 4 Color Theorem, Game of Set, Monty Hall Problem
In Action

• Approach: personal and activity introductions, small groups, facilitating, sharing ideas, summary

• Initial parent responses and engagement: manipulatives vs. drawing vs. puzzles and games
Parental Engagement

- Very Involved
- Somewhat Involved
- Not Involved
Parental Math Comfort

Before

After

- Very Comfortable
- Comfortable
- Neutral
- Uncomfortable
- Very Uncomfortable
Parental Take-Aways

• New perspectives on the scope of math
Parental Take-Aways

• New perspectives on the scope of math

"Came to see math as more than just arithmetic and actually quite interesting."
Parental Take-Aways

• New perspectives on the scope of math

“It made me realize that math really is problem solving. It’s ok not to have the answer for the sake of the answer. It’s ok to say that discovering how math works and working on a problem can be part of the goal. That math is ongoing and there are things we haven’t solved yet!”
Parental Take-Aways

• New perspectives on the scope of math

• New family math participation
Parental Take-Aways

• New perspectives on the scope of math

• New family math participation

“[...] we started playing different card games that we learned at math club.”
Parental Take-Aways

• New perspectives on the scope of math

• New family math participation

• Time for camaraderie
Parental Take-Aways

• New perspectives on the scope of math

• New family math participation

• Time for camaraderie
  
  "I also enjoyed playing games with the other parents. It was a fun exercise."
Parental Take-Aways

• New perspectives on the scope of math

• New family math participation

• Time for camaraderie
  “What was your most impactful experience?”
  “Working in the small groups with other parents to come up with solutions to the interesting scenarios we were given”
Would you do this again?

Yes!
Recap and Future Work

• Ran Season 1 of Crazy 8’s twice, same parent activities

• Do new parent activities along with a Season 2 of Crazy 8’s?

• Parents and kids combined session?
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  https://crazy8s.bedtimemath.org

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