

# 5 Ways to Move Math Forward This Summer

Summer learning is more critical than ever. So we asked a group of Savvas authors and math experts for ideas to accelerate student learning.



## Start with Building Connections, Community, and Engagement

by Zachary Champagne

As we think about building inclusive and welcoming summer programs for our students, I believe there are two foundational ideas that must exist to help students move forward: 1) Make sure the time is of high interest and fun. 2) Focus on connection with and among students in spite of the fact that they'll only be together for a short amount of time. Ultimately, we want to build summer programs that are enticing for students. This not only will help with buy-in, but more importantly, will help students accelerate their learning.



## Build Confidence in Math Learning One Objective at a Time

by Dr. Juanita "Nita" Copley

Trying to be "better at math" is an overwhelming idea. This summer, assign your students a small but specific objective for each of them to learn every day. For example, one student's objective could be to learn eights in multiplications. If they see they can learn one thing at a time, it will build confidence and make math learning more joyful. At the end of the day, ask them to present the idea that they learned to an audience. Being able to explain what they learned to others helps them retain the idea. Have them keep a journal of what they learned to bring with them into the next year.



## Teachers as Warm Demanders

by Dr. Robert Q. Berry III

Teachers support students' sense of agency in the values they communicate, such as having high expectations and showing care for learners. Warm demanders overcome the passivity of low expectations and a low sense of agency through care. Once teachers know and understand their students' identities, histories, experiences, and cultural contexts, they can connect these meaningfully with mathematics.



## Bring Wonder, Joy, and Beauty into High School Math Instruction

by Dr. Eric Milou

High school mathematics can potentially cultivate in students a sense of wonder, beauty, and joy — and doing so is an important but often neglected purpose for teaching mathematics. Let's use summer learning to show students the wonder, the beauty, and the joy of mathematics, and that mathematics helps us understand the world.



## Teach Math in Context Using Theme-Based Units

by Dr. Juanita "Nita" Copley

Often students see math as "stuff" that really isn't important to their daily lives. I found that if I teach math in real-life contexts, leveraging the students' previous experiences, and integrating it with other content areas, e.g., science or art, students were actually excited about math. They see a purpose to their learning. An example of a theme would be restaurants. You can teach a variety of mathematical ideas like fractions and decimals through shopping for food, cooking, selling, sharing the food by advertising, etc.

For more ideas, download the free ebook:

***Ideas and Strategies to Help Teachers Move Learning Forward This Summer***

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