

Ways to Communicate About Mathematics During Back to School Night

- Include in your presentation a slide or two with an overview of the year's mathematics content, a brief explanation about why we teach mathematics differently, and some general ways parents can support their children at home.
- Use transition times intentionally. As parents enter the classroom, have a sense-making routine warm-up ready to go that you would normally do with students. This will give parents a glimpse of what teaching mathematics for understanding looks like.
- Provide handouts about mathematics this year. This is a great time to give parents your beginning of the year letter, flyers about upcoming math-specific events they can attend, and guidance for how to support their child at home.
- Before Back to School Night, have your students create a sense-making math task for their parent to solve. As parents enter the classroom, each desk will have a puzzle or sense-making task that their child has made for them with love.
- Before Back to School Night, take short video footage of your class engaged in an authentic mathematics task or a sense-making routine. During Back to School Night, share a glimpse into what math class looks like today.
- Be sure your room is filled with anchor charts or posters made by students highlighting important mathematics you want the parents to know about, such as classroom or schoolwide norms (e.g., mistakes are learning opportunities), pictures of student work showing a variety of methods to solve a task, careers that use mathematics, mathematical autobiographies, or mathematical habits we want students to elicit.