



# What's Up with **GEAR UP**

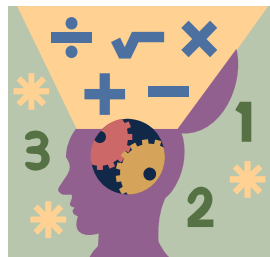
Oakville Middle and High School



Ed Specialist  
College Coach

## DO THE MATH Excellent Reasons To Learn Math

I came across a copy of an article about reasons to learn math that we shared with our student staff during our fall training. I thought I would share some of it with you. Math is one of those subjects some of us roll our eyes at, shake our heads, and are happy we got through the aches and pains of math in high school. I thought some of the article's insights might be a useful tool when discussing the importance of math with your children or grandchildren.



- √ It makes you smarter.
- √ You'll make more money.
- √ You'll lose less money.
- √ You'll have an easier time in college.
- √ You'll meet it more and more in the future.
- √ It increases your career options.

The author, Espen Anderson, is an associate professor at the Norwegian School of Management, in Oslo. This information about why math is important came from an article entitled, "Do the Math" in the September 2006 edition of a magazine called [Edutopia](#).

## A Career Path of an English, Spanish, and History Teacher



**Ms. Bauer has taught at Oakville Middle and High School for two years. Presently she is teaching her third year which consists of:** Contemporary World Problems, Pacific Northwest History, Spanish, and Language Arts.

**Her hobbies are:** Master Gardening, scrap booking, and reading history and medicinal herb books.

**When did you first start thinking about going to college?**

*When I was a senior in high school I knew I would one day go to college. I decided to get married, have children and see what the world was all about first.*

**Who supported your idea of going to college?**

*No one supported me. I'm the only one in my family who has a college degree.*

**When did you go to college?**

*After almost twenty years after high school graduation, and my children grown, I gained admission to Centralia College in 1990. After two years at Centralia College, I transferred to The Evergreen State College, where I graduated with my bachelor's degree and a Master in Teaching degree.*

**What made you decide to become a teacher?**

*As the oldest of seven children within nine years, I was always a teacher while growing up. In elementary school, I would organize the children in the neighborhood and give them diagnostic tests and create curriculum for them to catch up before fall. It was called "playing school" and I was always the teacher. So maybe I didn't decide; maybe fate decided for me.*

**What types of jobs or careers did you do before going back to college?**

*I have had a myriad of jobs, including packing shingles, which was my favorite. I loved working hard and because the pay was piece-work, I made the wages of a man with a side benefit of becoming extremely "buff." Later I decided I needed a more "intellectual" job, so I took on the task of designing and implementing a book keeping position for Dunlap-Towing, a log handling company that exported timber to Japan and China from the Port of Olympia. I found it extremely satisfying, but because I was not a man and lacked an education, my upward mobility was limited. I then began my own landscaping company for several years. Because my sons were still teen-agers at home I elected not to pursue landscaping further at that time in their lives. When they began college, it also gave me the long awaited opportunity to begin at the same time. I loved college and I love learning.*

**What would you tell your students about going to college?**


*Don't wait to take advantage of college resources you have at the school, apply for scholarships, and get admitted into college right after high school. Within the years I was in college, I watched tuition costs triple and quadruple. If I had gone right out of high school, the cost would have seemed insignificant for the return of benefits over a lifetime. For the young ladies I would also advise college so they can make enough money to support themselves and be independent. Unfortunately, it is still often a man's world out there and a woman without a degree is greatly handicapped. You cannot do anything about the former, so please seriously consider the latter!*



## SHOW ME THE MONEY

One of the many ways GEAR UP supports students and parents in preparing for college is to increase their college knowledge. Moving from high school to college takes lots of planning and preparation. GEAR UP is providing you with the information below for the purpose of giving you a realistic idea about how much one year of college costs at a public, four-year university in Washington State.

This table shows pre-college costs and a realistic “cost of attendance” that factors in everything from transportation and food (“board”) to tuition.

<b>SHOW ME THE MONEY</b>		
<b>Approximate cost for <u>one</u> <u>year</u> of college at :</b>		<b>Estimated Cost</b>
<b>Washington State University</b>	<b>Pre-College Costs</b>	
	SAT fee	\$ 41
	ACT fee	\$ 43
	College Application Fee	<u>\$ 50</u>
	<b>Total: Pre-College Costs</b>	<b><u>\$134</u></b>
	<b>Annual Cost of Attendance</b>	
	<b>Direct Costs</b> (paid directly to university before classes start)	
	Tuition and Fees	\$ 6,448
	Room	\$ 4,126
	Board (food)	\$ 3,200
	<b>Indirect Costs</b> (paid by student as costs incur)	
	Books & Supplies	\$ 912
	Transportation	\$ 1,400
	Personal & Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>\$ 2,100</u>
	<b>Total: Annual Cost of Attendance</b> (direct & indirect costs)	<b><u>\$18,186.00</u></b>

If, after reading the chart above, you are beginning to panic, DON'T. The good news is there are billions of dollars in scholarship monies to help pay for college. Take full advantage of the Parent & Student College Resource Center in the Oakville high school library to search for free money. *How To Pay For College*, *Searching For Sports Scholarships*, and *What Parents Need To Know About Financial Aid* are but a few of the titles you can check out and read at home at your leisure. GEAR UP FOR COLLEGE!!!

Larry Crowley GEAR UP Educational Specialist, College Coach

P.S. Have a great holiday!

