
ELAINE BELTAOS-KERR, MacEwan

MathJAM – Towards Math for All

MathJAM is a new project originating with MacEwan University and Spruce Avenue Junior High School in Edmonton. This program aims to increase mathematics participation to those who are usually overlooked and to invite students with different abilities and learning styles to engage with mathematics and build confidence. There are already many opportunities for students with the means and family support to excel in mathematics and science (e.g. Math Kangaroo, summer camps), but opportunities for “everyone else” are relatively few. MathJAM was developed to try to address this gap. The first iteration of this project ran in fall 2024 with grade nine students from the O-day’min area (inner city Edmonton). There were no selection criteria for participants or volunteers, and all activities took place on campus at MacEwan University. In this talk, we will discuss what worked, what could be better, and how to expand this program towards creating an accessible and diverse culture around mathematics.