

Title: Invitations to Mathematics: First-Day Classroom Activities for Building Community and Enthusiasm

Abstract: Many math classes start with a careful discussion of the syllabus, including the grading scheme, due dates, and attendance policies. While this logistical information is important, it is not particularly exciting or motivating. In this talk, I will present several mathematical problems and activities that we've used at Harvard to launch our math classes, develop collaborative and inclusive learning communities, and generate enthusiasm among our students.