Teaching math is not always the easiest of tasks. While I am a big fan of math I have had my moments when I struggled to understand certain concepts or areas of mathematics. At the end of the day, it’s crucial that students understand why math is important and they understand why it is necessary in their lives. In order for students to develop this understanding of mathematics, teachers need to be using different strategies to effectively teach their content. While it may be difficult to get all students involved in the classroom lessons and activities teachers need to take the extra steps to make the material appealing to students.

It’s very important that students learn to be competent in mathematics. While most students may ask questions such as, “Why do I need math?”, or make comments including, “I’m never going to use this in real life” teachers need to be ready with the appropriate answers or corrections to their statements. Math is used in everyday life and it’s important teachers make this clear to students. Without mathematics many of their everyday routines would be altered. Besides the basics including time, money, dates, and grades math exists in many more unrecognizable places. Students need to realize that math is used for scoring, sports, expenses, games, music, and in most occupations that they are interested in pursuing. In today’s job market, if students do not have a basic understanding of mathematics it’s likely that they will not be hired. Even more so, the majority of students in today’s classroom will have jobs that don’t exist yet and math will be a noticeable factor in such jobs. Math is important because it is directly connected to more areas than certain people may notice, but if teachers are good at making these connections students may realize how important math is as well.
Teachers need to be using effective strategies for teaching math to their students. By effective strategies, this means more than students just accepting the material they are given by the teacher and believing it is true because their teacher said so. In my opinion, the most effective teaching strategy is by building real connections to the material in class. If students realize that the math they are learning has a real place outside of the classroom then they are more likely to get involved in the material. When students are involved in the material they are showing a real interest and have a better chance of understanding the concepts, that’s why games and projects should still have a place in math classrooms. Additionally, to effectively teach math the class must feel comfortable. Since math is not always easy to grasp, students need to be comfortable with their teachers and peers so they can communicate and figure out the concepts that may be causing them trouble. If teachers provide their students with a safe environment where they don’t feel as if they will be ridiculed for giving a wrong answer then students will participate more. Students need connections and comfort among other tools to learn math.

Teaching math may be a difficult process at times but as long as teachers are adequately prepared they students should understand the topics. As long as a connection to real world material is incorporated into the classroom, students should recognize the importance of mathematics. Giving purpose to the concepts in mathematics helps students because they know it is useful and relevant to their lives. Students will always question why they have to do the tasks assigned but if teachers are ready with answers than students have less to complain about. Overall, it’s important students’ respect that math is important and teachers need to teach them effectively so they reach this understanding.