

Session Title

Seriously? Math = Fun? A Little Programming Brings out the Joy of Math

Presenters

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Generate perfect squares by opening/closing your lockers? Randomly pick points on graph paper to produce triangles inside of triangles? Guess how many people can fill a room before two have the same birthday? These questions do not appear on state math tests. However, they do show up in “Fun With Math” books like *The Number Devil* and *The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets*. In many cases, we need computers to help us with the number crunching underlying the solutions. Programming experience is not necessary and no special math skills are needed as the computer will do the heavy lifting.

Overview

Students will run the starter code for several programs via a shared Google doc. We will see interesting outcomes from the initial running of the programs, and then produce even more interesting results by modifying the inputs and tweaking some of the code. Time will be provided for students to play more with the programs or try their hand at other problems included in the Google doc.