

Latinxs and Hispanics in the Mathematical Sciences



Jaime Burbano

High School Mathematics Teacher, Oak Park and River Forest High School

Jaime developed a love for learning as well as for math through his mother. An educator herself, she inspired a passion for numbers and patterns by assisting with Jaime's homework and providing additional learning opportunities. Jaime initially wanted to study science and medicine; however, his love of mathematics and passion for helping others drove him to education. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Loyola University Chicago. Following graduation, Jaime began his teaching career at Loyola University's High School Summer Bridge program where he taught students of color from public schools. He soon began working in the Chicago Public School system and became involved with the College Preparatory Mathematics Program (CPMP). After 11 years in the Chicago Public School system, Jaime moved on to Oak Park and River Forest High School in Oak Park, IL. He has continued to focus his teaching on students who struggle with mathematics, primarily students of color. As a minority, Jaime feels that it is his responsibility to help students believe in their ability to do math. After 30 years in the classroom, Jaime's drive to provide each of his students the confidence to succeed in mathematics continues.

During his career, the use of technology in mathematics has had an impact on Jaime. After incorporating graphing calculator technology into his classroom, this became part of Jaime's research as he completed his Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at National-Louis University. He became trained as a Teacher Teaching with Technology (T3) Instructor through Texas Instruments and has presented at several local and national mathematics conferences. Jaime thinks education at the K-12 level is an opportunity to help shape the community through an academic setting. He sees that our classrooms are as diverse as ever at this time, and believes that as educators, we need to provide an equitable learning experience in mathematics for all of our students, in all of our schools. Jaime feels that "As teachers, we must provide students with relevant hands-on learning activities that allow them to experience the mathematics, rather than to listen or watch the teacher do the math." He encourages teachers, "Do not be afraid to take chances and try something new. There are many new and exciting digital applications available to implement in your classroom. Step out of your comfort zone and try one."

"Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to share my culture and traditions with others. It is also a time to celebrate the contributions of Latinos in our society, communities and especially in our schools. HHM is also a chance to honor who we are, as Latinos. However, celebrating hispanidad should not only be for one month out of the year; it should be a year-round recognition of who we are and where we come from. We should also not forget the contributions of our predecessors, the Aztecs, Incas, and Mayas. The mathematics they used shaped their respective civilizations for hundreds of years and must not be forgotten."

Lathisms was founded in 2016 in order to showcase the contributions of Latinx and Hispanic mathematicians during Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated in the United States from September 15 and October 15 every year. During this time, we feature/reveal a prominent Latinx/Hispanic mathematician daily. See all the featured mathematical scientists at [LATHISMS.ORG](https://lathisms.org).

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