Regional

Teaching students to overcome a fear of math

For many people, math is a four-letter word. Mathematics has a reputation as being a tough subject to learn - as well as teach. The problem is compounded by the fact that many parents believe knowledge of math is important and pass on their anxiety to their children.

"The bad thing is that we don't want to teach our child that math is a nightmare. I'm sort of tired of hearing about, 'Let's get more kids into this subject.'" said Dennis Cramsey, District 7's superintendant, "It's all about making sure you look at it right."

"We get to those areas. As a strong teacher, I'm going to develop," she said. "And we try to get into the subject." This does not mean, she added, that it is an easy subject to teach.

"Because when we are teaching we are always trying to figure out when the stu- dents are engaged, and to also help them get over the fear of math so that they can think about it and in pedagogy, or the art and science of teaching."

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