

“I hate math.” “I’m not good at math.” “I’ll never need math.”

That was me. I have spoken to countless students who don’t understand why they “have to study math, or social studies,” or...you name it.

For me, it was math. So much so, that when my senior high school friends took math the 4th year (it was optional back then) I ran fast and said no.

When I attended my college orientation, the advisor asked me what I wanted to major in. My answer was, “Whatever I can become to avoid math.” This is a true story—but I also knew that I wanted to be a counselor.

(In college, of course, there was college Algebra—so much for my avoidance skills.)

But then there were these other aspects of me—music (MATH), a love for quilting (MATH—all those fractions and angles and measuring). Oh, and then I became a business owner—guess what? MATH. If you don’t have math skills as a business owner, you don’t have a business.

The moral of the story of course is not that your child will become a quilter-musician-business owner, but that these skills really do continue to creep into our everyday lives.

I often tell my college-age clients that college isn’t just “becoming a teacher, or accountant, etc.” but it is showing your ability to finish the challenge of college. And part of that challenge is taking classes you don’t love or even like or even care about. (2nd on my list—GEOLOGY).

So parents, hang in there and help your kiddos do the same. Part of our jobs as parents isn’t to make their lives easier, it is to show them how to live with life when it is less than easy.

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The Teaching Never Stops