

“Through classroom discourse of certain types, students are encouraged to treat one another as equal partners in thinking, conjecturing, exploring, and sharing ideas. Mutual respect is fostered when norms exist that set expectations for respectful and civil discourse.”

—Chapin, O’Connor, and Anderson (2009)

Socio-Mathematical Norms

Most classrooms have a set of norms and agreements shared by teachers and students that help establish the classroom culture.

The Socio-Mathematical Norms below articulate beliefs held in OUSD about learning math. The norms name specific expectations and conditions that support learning in a context of academic discussion. While specific to mathematics, the norms can easily apply to other content areas, and can serve as a complement other existing classroom norms and agreements.

Socio-Mathematical Norms Promote Learning

Errors are gifts, because they promote discussion.

The answer is important, but it is *not* the math.

Ask questions until ideas make sense.

Share a second sentence to connect your thoughts.

Talk about each other’s thinking.

Think with language and use language to think.

Use multiple strategies ... multiple representations!