

## **Key Points on Math at CSU San Marcos**

Presented by Dr. Hanson Smith

- Mathematics is creative, vibrant, and active! There is new math being created and new math research happening constantly.
  - Studying mathematics gives you a unique perspective and logical toolkit. You can use mathematical tools on all sorts of interesting problems inside and outside math research.
- 
- One of the biggest factors impeding student success is a lack of fluency in fundamental mathematical ideas. Students need to understand concepts like fractions, functions, and manipulating both sides of an equality with algebra.
  - These concepts need to click. Students who have a deep understanding of these relatively basic concepts have the foundation to do very well in STEM.
- 
- CSU San Marcos is focused on student success. There are a plethora of programs in place to support students. The support system is vast; however, we have a student-centered office to help students navigate and get the support they need.
  - The math major has just diversified into four different tracks: General, Education, Applied, and Algorithmic. These tracks help students specialize to be prepared for their post-graduation goals!
  - Students can expect to get to know and work with professors in the math department. We know our majors, and we work to shepherd students through the curriculum. I teach Math 110: Critical Thinking to welcome new students into the major and introduce them to the new perspectives of proof-based mathematics.