

Session Overview

On **May 8, 2024**, The BPS/BTU Telescope Network in collaboration with the Math and Equitable Literacy Departments co-hosted a panel discussion where educators explored effective practices in the alternative math classroom. The panel of "humble expert" colleagues shared ideas, current successful practices, and resources for educators to take back to their practice. A full house of **22** alternative school educators attended the session from **7** different schools or departments.



What is a Connect & Share Panel Discussion?

During a Connect & Share panel webinar, participants hear from BPS colleagues about what's working in their classrooms and schools. Presenters share a 10-minute presentation about an effective practice. Participants connect with peers from across BPS, get new ideas, and earn PD hours.

Credits 1.5 PD hrs

Why this topic?

The session topic was derived from alternative educators sharing their needs in PD spaces. Overarching themes in Alt. Educators' feedback included:

- More support around math instruction in the Alt. Ed. space
- More cross-collaboration and networking opportunities for Alt. Ed community in BPS
- To see and hear from other educators in Alt. Ed. about how they are overcoming common challenges

Discussion Topics

- → Successes and challenges highlighted in this session: Jamboard
- → Benadette Manning: Reparations Math & Reparations History
- → Linda Davenport: 15 Minute Neighborhood Community Project
- → Heather Wood: Number Talks: Improving Student Communication & Math Identities

Participant Feedback

After the session, **92%** of participants said that they would recommend this session to a colleague. Additional comments from participants:

 I loved how we were able to highlight the similar needs between our different spaces and make connections for how to best provide equitable literacy to students in a math context.

- Thinking through interdisciplinary teaching
- The presenters were clear and amazing.
- I really loved hearing about the work of the other presenters.

Participant Takeaways

Based on this session, here's some things that participants want to try in their own classrooms/schools:

- "I'd love to do more number talks, especially the dot figures, because I think they are less threatening and so easily lend themselves to multiple approaches. I also am really curious about the reparations work..."
- "Finding ways (big and small) to empower and engage our students I'd love to get my hands on the 15 minute neighborhood project resources!"
- "The use of Google Earth in the classroom sparked my interest."
- "Ideas for new projects"

Next Steps

- <u>Telescope Needs Assessment Survey</u>: Elevate the unique needs of alternative educators' and students by taking the survey. Your voice will help to inform PD offerings for next school year.
- <u>Telescope Events Calendar</u> for future PD sessions and social events.

Additional Resources

Event facilitators: <u>Amanda Hathaway</u>, <u>Ashley Jacobson</u>, & <u>Garcie Champagne</u>. Visit the <u>event webpage</u> or <u>bostonpublicschools.org/telescope</u> for more information. Email us at <u>telescope@bostonpublicschools.org</u>.

- Connect & Share | ALT.Ed. MATH | 5.08.24 (Slideshow)
- ALT ED MATH: Connect & Share Flyer (Promotional flyer)





