

Bronx Charter School for Better Learning Hosts Gattegno Mathematics Conference for Homeschooling Families From Around the World

This week, from August 8th – 12th, the Bronx Charter School for Better Learning (BBL) will host its first ever Gattegno Mathematics Conference for Homeschooling Families. BBL's annual summer training in "Visible and Tangible Mathematics" will be streamed to homeschooling parents in 15 states and 9 foreign countries. Four more, hailing from Iowa, (Denny I will add in the other states when I get them soon] will participate in person at the school's campus in the north Bronx.

Visible and Tangible Math is part of the pedagogy known as Subordinating Teaching to Learning, which was created by Dr. Caleb Gattegno. The approach employs manipulatives, primarily Cuisenaire rods, to help students construct "visible and tangible" models for mathematical relationships.

The five day seminar will be led by three of BBL's co-founders: Arthur B. Powell, Ted Swartz and Paula Hajar. Dr. Hajar is looking forward to sharing Gattegno's ideas with this large group of homeschooling families. "A few months ago we were approached about sharing our Professional Development this summer," she said. "Unbeknownst to us, Dr. Gattegno's pedagogy – and our school – are famous among a segment of the homeschooling community. Sonya Post, a homeschooler from Pella, Iowa, (whose blog, Arithmophobia No More, attracts homeschoolers from all over the world), said in that first phone conversation that many of the parents she works with had read Gattegno's books, but they wanted an opportunity to see the pedagogy in action. We jumped at the chance to share our instructional practice with a whole new population."

About the Bronx Charter School for Better Learning: The school's philosophy is that instruction should constantly adjust to the needs of students. Practicing the subordination of teaching to learning strengthens student independence, autonomy, and responsibility; it also nurtures a love of learning. All of this contributes directly to high academic achievement: BBL students' achievement on state tests exceeds district, borough and citywide averages and meets or exceeds New York State Standards in all curriculum areas tested, especially in mathematics.