

December 10, 2010

The Power and Beauty of Mathematics

To the Editor:

Re “[Changing Views of Math and Science, Starting With the Young](#)” (Warsaw Journal, Dec. 3):

The Poles should be applauded for their efforts — albeit a bit late — at making math and science a priority in their culture through the establishment of the Copernicus Science Center. But according to your report the motivation for the resurgence of math is largely economic.

Yet by exposing the power and beauty of mathematics to the general populace, we eventually strengthen the quantitative and problem-solving skills that have a much wider overarching range of influence than almost anything else.

There is already a favorable spark in Poland that I noticed when articles of mine about math for the general audience were translated for the Polish audience. The reactions to these have been most encouraging! We, too, are recognizing the importance of popularizing math for the general audience with this month’s opening of the Manhattan Museum of Math.

Alfred S. Posamentier

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., Dec. 3, 2010

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