

# Welcome, Chinese and Chinese-American community of Lexington!

I'm Fiona, and I'm excited to talk to you today about the new AoPS Academy opening up near you, as well as my own educational experiences as a Chinese-American woman who grew up in the US.

# The Art of Problem Solving (AoPS): Then and Now

In 1994, our founder and director Richard Rusczyk, who won the USA Math Olympiad in 1989, co-wrote the *Art of Problem Solving* textbooks, designed to prepare students for mathematical competitions by teaching them concepts and problem solving methods rarely taught in school.

“Today, AoPS offers an online school, in-person learning centers, and a constellation of online applications, in addition to textbooks. It also boasts an active 300,000-member online community. The 2018 MIT admit class circulated a spreadsheet in which to share usernames for five social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, and AoPS. After 20 years without a win, the U.S. has won four of the past five International Math Olympiads — and all of the 22 members of those teams are or were AoPS students.” (1)

(1) <https://paw.princeton.edu/article/richard-rusczyk-93-fosters-resilience-curiosity-through-challenging-math-problems>



Academy

# Why is AoPS the BEST place for your student?

1. Our teachers.
  - Graduate degrees
  - Rigorous hiring procedures
  - Paid systematic training program
  - Robust support



Academy

# Why is AoPS the BEST place for your student?

## 2. Our curriculum.

- AoPS math textbooks
- In process of creating Language Arts textbooks
- Weekly graded online interactive homework assignments with detailed solutions
- In-class examinations and feedback
- Online tools:
  - Alcumus
  - For the Win
  - MATHCOUNTS Trainer
  - Beast Academy online
  - AoPS online



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# Why is AoPS the BEST place for your student?

## 3. Our record.

- Go-to resource for best math students in the country
- Sole educational company on the national sponsor list of MATHCOUNTS
- Sole company recommended by the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) series



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# Why is AoPS the BEST place for your student?

## 4. Our commitment.

- Refund and withdrawal policy
- Free one-on-one help
- Placement consultations
- Small class size



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# Lexington Campus Specifics

## Course offerings:

- Math: 2nd grade through Precalculus, middle/high school competition math
- Language Arts: 2nd grade through high school
- <https://lexington.aopsacademy.org/courses/catalog>

## Course schedule:

- Classes offered Wednesday through Sunday
- <https://lexington.aopsacademy.org/courses/schedule>

## Tuition:

- Annual registration fee
- Curriculum fee
- Annual tuition
- <https://lexington.aopsacademy.org/courses/tuition>



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I am the child of Chinese immigrants who settled in Stamford, Connecticut.

As a child, I was painfully shy but I loved math and chess.

My parents did not want me to attend any academic camps like CTY or AoPS, even though I begged.

# So what got me into Harvard?

Disclaimer: Nobody at Harvard really knows the answer to this question.

My hypotheses:

1. My letters of recommendation
2. My Common App essays
3. Being the first female captain of the school's math team, winning state championships
4. My grades... and a little bit of luck

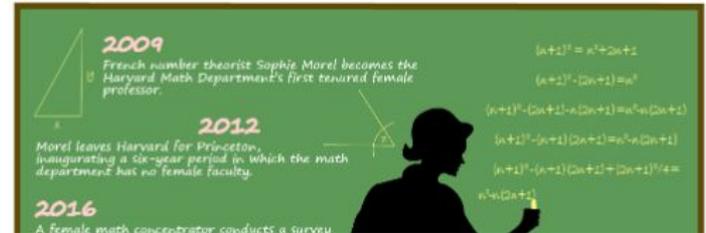


I was initially hesitant to pursue pure mathematics at Harvard.

## 'A Sort of Everyday Struggle'

Women in Harvard's math department report a bevy of inequalities—from a discouraging absence of female faculty to a culture of "math bro" condescension.

Math Dept Hires 2nd-Ever Female Tenured Prof, Ending Six-Year Drought



## Harvard Should Fix Its Gender Gap

Posted by [Vikram Sundar](#) | Feb 6, 2015 | [Campus](#), [Criminal](#), [Criminal](#)

Math 101: Introduction  
to Sets, Groups, and Topology

x	1	-1	i	-i
1	1	-1	i	-i
-1	-1	1	-i	i
i	i	-i	-1	1
-i	-i	i	1	-1

Do the green action, then the orange action	Stay still	Turn 180 degrees	Turn right	Turn left
Stay still	Stay still	Turn 180 degrees	Turn right	Turn left
Turn 180 degrees	Turn 180 degrees	Stay still	Turn left	Turn right
Turn right	Turn right	Turn left	Turn 180 degrees	Stay still
Turn left	Turn left	Turn right	Stay still	Turn 180 degrees

Some important people...



My lifetime mentor,  
Professor Mboyo Esole  
at Northeastern  
University



James Tao, Harvard classmate, 2x IMO gold medalist, currently a math PhD student at MIT, who was my topology teaching fellow in undergrad. Fun fact: James will be a substitute teacher at AoPS Lexington!

# Takeaways

1. Be kind.
2. Be authentic.
3. Be genuinely curious.