

Math

A really important and in some ways underpublished fact about math is that math is very hard.

We sometimes conceal this fact from our students, with the idea that we're doing them a favor. It's just the opposite. ... When we say the lesson at hand is "easy" or "simple," and it manifestly isn't, we are telling the student that the difficulty isn't with mathematics, it's with them. And they will believe us. ...

"If I didn't get this and it was easy," they'll say, "why bother trying to understand something hard!"

Jordan Ellenberg, *Shape*