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63103. *Using Cryptography to Show Students that Math is Everywhere*. Preliminary report.

A useful fact about cryptography is that in our current culture it is practically impossible for our students to avoid using cryptography on a routine basis, even if they do not initially realize this fact. A standing assignment in my class is that students must routinely make an annotated discussion group posting of a URL related to cryptography. They must also make comments evaluating the information found in other students' posting. Several times a semester they must write a one-page evaluation of a site. The net result is that they become aware not only that "math is everywhere", but that it is also pervasive and in plain sight but they have not been seeing it. (Received September 20, 2010)