

ENGAGING STUDENTS IN MATH

by:

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The pandemic brought about by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has changed the way students learn. Before the pandemic, it was already evident that many students fear the teaching and learning of Mathematics. The transition from the old normal to distance learning to blended teaching to full face-to-face instruction makes it harder for students to appreciate Math.

Students who are engaged in a class retain information better and might even take an interest in mathematics. Because of this, math teachers must devise original and imaginative strategies to pique even the least interested students' interests.

Resilient Educator (2020) suggested five ways to help teachers in catching the interests of the students. According to the educational article, the majority of students do not think they will ever apply the arithmetic they are learning in high school. It is the reason why teachers should relate math lessons to real-world situations. A teacher needs to figure out a way to connect what they are teaching to the actual world in order to solve this issue. Students are more likely to genuinely pay attention and participate in class when they can perceive the relevance of the material being taught.

Second, giving students options is another strategy to ensure student interaction. The choice of working in groups or alone is up to the students. Teams of three to four students might be formed from the class. Students may collaborate in groups to solve a math problem after it is presented. A point is awarded to the first team to solve the problem correctly. Teachers may give the team with the highest grade no homework at the conclusion of the class.

Another one is by using props. Teachers should use objects whenever possible to illustrate the formulae and techniques they are teaching. Students with a range of learning styles, including visual, haptic, and kinesthetic, will benefit from using props. More students will be able to comprehend what is being taught and truly retain the information if the senses of sight and touch are included.

Next, find problems where there are multiple solutions. There are typically right and wrong solutions to math issues. It may be challenging to encourage student engagement and dialogue as a result. Finding math problems with a single answer but multiple ways to get there is a terrific strategy to keep students' attention. Inform students that there are various approaches to solving the problem when it is given to them, and then challenge them to see how many approaches they can think of.

Lastly, ensure student safety. Whether they are aware of the solution or not, pupils won't speak up if they are terrified of being teased by their peers. Teachers must make it crystal clear that any negative behavior is not acceptable in order to foster a safe and welcoming learning environment. Starting today, this should be done.

The article emphasized the importance of engaging students in different activities. Indeed, math will be interactive if the teacher will use various approaches that will engage the students in the discussion. Math will never be boring if the teacher is fun.

References:

Resilient Educator (2020). 5 Tips to Help Get Students Engaged in High School Math. Retrieved from <https://resilienteducator.com/classroom-resources/5-tips-to-help-get-students-engaged-in-high-school-math/>