



4th Grade Math



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I apologize for not being able to make it tonight. I wanted to use this time to fill you guys in on what our process for math looks like on a day-to-day basis. However, Mrs. Bailey is with us at least once everyday and has a good feel for what we are doing in the classroom. If you have any questions feel free to email me at jutterback@paris.k12.mo.us. Thanks!!!

- Mr. Utterback

Our Math curriculum.

To start with, we use a math series called Pearson for our math curriculum. Our school bought it as part of a package deal that includes books, online tests, practice/ enrichment pages and more.

Topics

Our Pearson math book has 16 topics. A topic is the category we will be working with for those lessons. Since we have certain things we have to cover in 4th grade I will be choosing the topics that deal with what we need to get to throughout the year. Some topics you can expect sometime before May will be Topic 11 (Fraction Equivalence and Ordering), Topic 12 (Adding and Subtracting Fractions and Mixed Numbers), Topic 14 (Measurement Units and Conversions), Topic 16 (Lines, Angles, and Shapes)

Starting a topic: Pretest

As we start each topic I have the students take a pretest. The pretest covers everything for the topic we are about to cover. Sometimes, pretest scores aren't that good. THAT'S OKAY. We haven't even done the lessons yet.

However, the pretest is vitally important for a few reasons. It allows me to see how well students already know the topic before we start. That way if we run into a situation where everybody (80% at 80%) already knows it we aren't going to spend much time teaching it. Also, it allows students to see where they stand before the lessons and shows them how important paying attention during each lesson is.

Lessons

After the pretest we get right to work on the lessons for that topic. Each topic has several lessons that break down the material in order for students to understand one concept at a time.

Each lesson starts with an introduction video that models the skill. Next, I do some example problems on the board and the students copy them down in their math notebook. After a few example problems I start calling on students. I try to call on everyone at first until I can narrow down who has mastered the skill and who still needs some practice.

Math Notebook

As we go along in the lesson I have them write down definitions, example problems, terms, and other things in their math notebooks for each lesson. The math notebooks are to help students remember how to do the steps in the skill we are learning. They are also helpful for parents who are trying to refresh their memory. The students should be numbering questions from the book so that you, as a parent, know which problem that work in the notebook goes with.

Students are free to take math notebooks home any night of the week! They can also take math books home and use it to take notes in math notebook.

Practice/ Enrichment Pages

After each lesson I will give the students a practice/ enrichment sheet to practice the skill or concept. I tell them it can be done in class, at home, in homework lab before school or whenever works best for them.

The practice/ enrichment pages are the same type of questions that will be on the test. Not the same numbers though so it is important to master the skill not just memorize the answers for the homework quiz.

Homework Quizzes

The day after the lesson I give a homework quiz. It is usually the practice/enrichment page with 5 of the problems circled. I use this as a quick check to see if the students understand the skill. It usually takes 10 minutes at the start of the day. By the time math starts I can use the data from the homework quiz to make a decision on what to do.

Say everyone did great on the homework quiz, then I know we are ready to roll with the next lesson. If half the class got it and half the class didn't then we will break into groups or do example problems from each lesson.

Homework Quizzes

Homework Quizzes are worth 10 points. Students need to pass a homework quiz with an 80%. If not, they will need to practice the skill from that lesson and try again. You must pass the homework quiz for each lesson before you can try the next homework quiz. For example, you must pass the 1-1 HQ before you can take the 1-2 HQ.

The HQs are great because they allow us to see exactly what skills students are struggling with. I hate moving on to the next thing if a student isn't ready and the homework quizzes have proven to be a good way to prevent that.

Lessons (After HQs)

The data from the homework quizzes really helps me decide what to do with math time. As we move through the topic we will do a whole group session over each lesson but almost everyday use at least half of math for small groups. The people who are on 1-1 will have a group, 1-2 will have a group, 1-3 will have a group, etc..

A group may be working on problems with Mrs. Bailey or I, working at their desk on the practice/ enrichment sheets, reviewing notes, looking over the book, or a variety of other things. Our goal is for everyone to get to an 80% on each homework quiz.

Post-Test

Once 80% of the class has at least an 80% on the last homework quiz of a topic (For topic 1 it is lesson 10 or 1-10) we start reviewing for the post-test. The test is on the chromebooks (just like the MAP test) and is the same test given at the beginning of the topic for the pretest. At this point students are able to see how much improvement they have made by comparing the pre-test scores to the post-test scores. The post-test will also be worth 100 points and should show how well students have mastered the skills in the topic.

Summing Up...

That's pretty much how math will run all year. Hopefully that helps answer any questions you guys have.