

Celebrating Math Learning Night

Overview

A math night is a fun event for kids in elementary school along with their parents. It lets kids show off their math understanding and skills. It also introduces kids to mathematical concepts beyond the classroom. Meanwhile, it provides an opportunity for parents to see what their kids are learning in math along with problem solving math problems together as a team.

Guidelines of a Math Celebration

- The first and most important step of a community math night is to both encourage and entice attendance
- Use a variety of cross age activities
- Post your math night agenda to inform parents of general format of the event
- Use a large, shared learning space like the school gym, library, a large foyer or use classrooms to highlight specific math concepts
- Set up a variety of stations to allow for choices

Goals of a Math Learning Night

- Explores the various processes of math used in the classroom
- Suggests how to support your child doing math at home
- Demonstrates strategies of math problem solving
- Introduces and familiarizes parents to current math vocabulary and general math literacy
- Promotes family engagement through math
- Purposefully connects parents to classroom learning
- Reinforces the role and responsibility parents have in their child's learning
- Promotes individual student success
- Highlights the value of math in real life
- Begins to develop a positive fun stigma around math
- Increases mathematical understanding
- Empowers parents
- Demonstrates that problems in math can be solved in a variety of ways
- Encourages collaboration between adults and kids
- Educates parents about math curriculum expectations

- Have sign-up sheets to help control numbers at individual stations
- Use older kids in the school to be the facilitators
- Use kids, educators, admin and support staff to contribute math activities and math manipulatives ie Lego, counters, math games
- Divide your space into stations with each station emphasizing a mathematical concept ie. Measurement, fractions etc.
- Encourage kids and parents to explore several stations
- Build on your math activities over time so that your math night becomes an annual event
- Make sure all stations are fun but mostly challenging and engaging
- Invite parents to help with cleanup at the end of the evening

Ideas for math stations

- Tangrams
- Set up a toy store with coins and exchanges
- Robotics
- Building structures with straws
- Sudoku's
- Dominoes
- Measurement
- Math tic-tac-toe
- Fraction Action
- Dice games
- Graphing station
- Life -size number line
- Drawing to scale
- Shapes
- Problems using Base ten blocks
- Cribbage and other card games
- Design a math board game
- Using symmetry through drawing
- Cutting and pasting shapes
- Lego math
- Estimate and confirm (guess then count)
- Math facts bingo

