T. Dalton

PreK, K, 1st Grade Instructional Coach

Example of a Balanced Math Lesson

Balanced Math is a wonderful resource for you to double dose Math. Once the students get use to completing these problems, they usually can be completed in 15-20 minutes. I always had my students to record their answers in a Math journal that could also be evaluated to check for understanding. Balanced Math focuses on a “Big Idea” for each grade level. These ideas center on concepts that the students should fully understand within your grade level. This does not mean that you do not teach other math components and standards, but they should leave your grade level comprehending this notion and being able to solve these problems.

Kindergarten – Number Sense

First Grade – Addition

Second Grade – Subtraction

Third Grade – Multiplication

Fourth Grade – Division

Fifth Grade - Division

*#1-#5 relates to your unit/state standards,etc. This can also be used for review or pre-teaching concepts and skills.*

*For example:*

1. 8-2=
2. 4-1=
3. 7-5=
4. 6-2=
5. 5-\_\_= 5

*#6 is always a Mental Math problem that the students complete using only their brains (no number lines, fingers, manipulatives, etc.) This problem should be told to the students and not written.*

#6 Addition, Subtraction, Pattern, or any concept you are working on with your students.

*#7 This is your Problem of the Week (POW) problem. Here, you begin with a problem on Monday and continue building upon that problem each day of the week. This helps your students use prior knowledge to solve their current problem.*

*For example:*

*Monday – If your teacher gives you 2 green pencils and 3 blue pencils, how many pencils do you have? (5)*

*Tuesday – What if your teacher gives you 3 more pencils? (8)*

*Wednesday – What if 1 of the pencils were to break, how many pencils are left? (7)*

*ETC.*

I used #8 and #9 to expand my student’s knowledge in Math. This is a great opportunity to apply Math to real life situations in order to make a connection for them. It is also a great opportunity to use some higher order thinking.

*#8 Brainquest – this could be a problem using time, money, or a skill that you want to introduce early.*

*#9 Daily Tantalizer – Higher Order Thinking*

*For example:*

Give me a number that is greater than 4 but less than 10.

Can 12 crayons be equally shared among 3 people?

Susan is covering some beans with her hand. If there are a total of 10 beans and you can see 3 of them, how many beans are under her hand?

*#10 is used for Writing in Math. Students may begin simple with just a sentence such as: Tell me how old you will be in 3 years using number words, use a sentence to give your address, or how do we use math daily? Eventually, you may have more complex writing such as giving them an equation (9+2=11) and they must write a word problem using the equation.*