

Math Workshop

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This past spring, I attended the Kentucky Center for Mathematics conference in Lexington. One of the sessions I attended involved using learning stations in the math classroom to reinforce and differentiate learning. I have always been very intrigued with this concept, as I have found learning stations a necessity when teaching younger grade levels. One teacher presenting at the conference taught high school students and shared how her small group work helped to improve test scores and classroom dynamics. I have had similar results in my own math classes using a mathematics workshop block. I have found that it is not only beneficial for differentiation, but it gives me a chance to check in with each of the students in an individualized setting.

Students are divided into sections based on their needs. The rotations follow the acronym MATH= Math minute, At your seat, Teacher time, and Hands-on. The students are given about ten minutes for each rotation depending on the skill difficulty. During Math Minute, the students work to increase their speed and accuracy on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Examples of activities might include iPad apps, websites, or practice pages. At Your Seat time allows students to work on an independent activity that aligns with skills being taught. These activities can be adjusted based on ability and needs of the students. Teacher Time is a set time where the teacher works with students on concepts assisting or enhancing as needed. And, Hands-On is an opportunity for students to work cooperatively with their peers on mathematics concepts. Teaching mathematics to primary students is a passion of mine and using learning stations allows me to better reach all of my students.

