

To the Foundation

Thank you for awarding me with a grant for the 2020-2021 school year. It was an honor to be chosen among my peers to receive the funds to try new ideas in the classroom.

Even though we are little over half way through the year, using games and competition in the classroom has benefitted the students. Instead of the standard worksheet to practice the math concept, Quizizz and Plickers were used to engage the students in practice. The students competed with each other in the class but also across the classes to be the top scorer. There were multiple requests to try again to raise their score. How often does a math teacher get to hear can I do more practice? In addition to motivating the student to complete practice questions, it enabled me to have immediate feedback as to any misconceptions the students may have had. It also helped me gauge if the students were ready to move forward.

In addition to on-line games, with the grant I was able to provide more hands-on “games” for practice. Students competed in completing puzzles which showcased the particular skill we were learning, such as matching the simplified version of an algebraic expression. One activity the students used candy hearts to demonstrate different representations of a function. Another activity to facilitate learning was playing a version of Old Maids to simplify negative exponents. With the hands-on “games, “ the students were able to discuss with their peers their understanding. It was a great way to motivate students who normally do not participate in class and also it was a good way to engage those students who usually do not complete the assignments.

Even though this has been a difficult year for the students, using games was a great way to engage students in learning. This year has proven to be the year of high apathy towards school and also starting the year grade levels behind in math. Adding games to help with increasing math skills was a benefit to the students. Using the games also was a great way to keep the students engaged. With engagement comes learning.

Again thank you for allowing me to explore different ways to reach and teach our students. I look forward to continuing to grow in my practices and to grow my students.

Sincerely

Julie Hewston

