ENGAGING STUDENTS IN MATHEMATICS

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Nowadays many of the students would probably say that one of their hated subjects is math. They found this subject boring not because it is a piece of cake but they find it difficult, providing no enjoyment at all. They would also say that where in life can I ever use the given formula? What is the sense of studying this specific topic if it is not useful in real life? On the contrary, hating math is a shame for it is used in many ways especially in doing business works which include almost all its aspects.

The job of inculcating the importance of this subject will fall to those who will teach it to their students. It is the teacher’s job to come up with innovative and creative ways to engage all students even those who are not interested in the subject. Students who find a lesson stimulating not only retain information better but also may even develop a passion for math.

According to an American mathematician Stan Gudder, “the essence of mathematics is not to make simple things complicated, but to make complicated things simple”. Just like what he said, when applied to teaching, math should not be complex as it should be. Teachers must make teaching easy with students by using different approach depending on the type of listeners he/she has.

Firstly, the teacher must find a way to relate whatever he/she teaches to the real world in order for students to recognize the real-life application of the topic. Doing so, when the students visualize the real-life value of what is being taught, they will feel the need to actually pay attention and get involved in the discussion. Next, give students some choices. This will catch their interest whether they like to solve a certain problem.
by themselves or by the accompaniment of their classmates. Whenever possible, teachers should also use appropriate instructional materials for better demonstrations of some formulas. Including senses of touch in learning will help students retain what is being taught. Another way is providing questions with different approaches or ways of how to answer a specific question. This will help enhance student's creativity in coming up for an answer. Also, teachers should make the ambiance of feeling safe while teaching the subject so whenever they try to answer a recitation and got a wrong answer, they won't be discouraged to take chances for the other times.

Creating a high school math classroom with engaged, interactive students is not an easy task. However, the effort will be rewarded with a better learning environment for students and an easier life for the teacher. If you want to better meet the needs of your learners through a developmental constructivist approach, then you should learn more about how to relate what you are teaching to the real world.

References:

5 Tips to Help Get Students Engaged in High School Math

https://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/classroom-resources/5-tips-to-help-get-students-engaged-in-high-school-math/

17 Inspirational Quotes About Math For Your Classroom