MATH JOURNAL: A REFLECTION OF PUPIL’S MATH STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

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Mathematics as a subject requires a hand – in – hand task between teacher and a learner. Changing the way they view Mathematics is a hard and tough task for teachers. One of most useful and applicative way to help and understand their perception towards the subject is through Math Journaling. This will be used as footnotes of their daily activities and way of understanding the subject. Explaining, simplifying and illustrating their prior knowledge and the things to want learn more and math challenge that can sometimes leave them confused or frustrated. Moreover it is a learning tool not only for read pupil’s journal, they can evaluate progress and recognize learner’s strength and needs. This is why incorporating journal writing in Math class is a good practice and you’ll start to see that journaling builds a strong foundation for Math mastery.

Why your Math Pupils should be journaling?

1. Support pupil’s learning.
   - To understand learners’ ideas and skills, teachers must guide them to draw up, systematize and reflect on their way of thinking. Initially many of them will need support and encouragement in order to communicate their ideas and thinking clearly through journaling, as with any skill, the more they practice the easier it will become. This keeps them engaged as they are not performing repetitive tasks by role. So teacher will know that learners respond well to opportunities to be expressive and creative. Pupils will steadily develop a strong senses of metacognition – the ability to understand how they learn as individuals.
2. Give venture to the pupils to write their mathematical ideas.

- An essence of journaling is to let pupils write down what they want to convey with the subject. As an old phrase goes, “There are many ways in killing a chicken” – give pupils a chance or allow them to translate and write the solution based on their understanding. Don’t isolate them with the process you only know but guide them to the path they are paving towards learning math.

3. Manifest differentiation among learners’ capabilities and skills.

- Journaling builds in differentiation by allowing pupils to work at their individual level of thinking. Looking over and examining each learner journal you can check them one by one and identify their level of understanding.

4. Necessarily in conveying through writing an image of ideas, concept and skills.

- Math journal provides a useful insight into what a child understand, how s/he approaches ideas and misconceptions s/he has. A contingency and chance for advancement or progress to organize and record their work without the structure of a worksheets. Journal also is their footnotes in conveying their ideas, concept and skills about their leanings.

5. Help teachers evaluate pupil’s progress and recognize their strength and needs.

- As teachers read the pupils journals, they can assess and evaluate individual strengths and needs. A journal is great help not only pupils but also for teacher to assess their own way of teaching.
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