TEACHING TO LOVE MATH

by:
Maya G. Malixi
Teacher III, Hermosa National High School

Math is an abstract subject; it involves understanding and wide imagination. Teaching students to love or appreciate math is sometimes can be so stressful to both students and teacher. Math is everywhere, it’s in the street, it’s in the food we eat, it’s in the time we spend, it’s with us in every step.

With lots of distractions around like cellphones and different online and offline games, plus the social media like facebooks, Instagram tweeter and etc., students seems to lose interest in abstract subjects like Math. It’s a challenge for Mathematics teachers to encourage students to appreciate math without sweating or draining students’ mind too much.

Here’s some way to teach Students to love Math,

1. Love what you teach and teach what you love

Start on yourself, the driving force that put you on your position is the starting point of it all. If you love what you’re teaching, it will be easy for you to impart it to your students. If you love what you’re teaching you can find ways to make it easy and fun. If you love what you’re teaching you will also teach your students to love it.

2. Make them believe they can do it

Most students in the classroom have low self-esteem. It may be rooted from their past experience about math, and their attitude toward math. It’s a big challenge for Math teachers to make students appreciate Math. If Math teacher could make topics easy, in way students could understand, then it will give students an assurance, that they can also
understand Math. Making them feels confident little by little and step by step, it can be done by giving practices, and more examples, and lots of brain storming. Help them realize that they may not be ready yet, but they will be ready soon, as long as they believe in their selves.

3. Indicate games on your topic

Breaking the usual class setting will wake student’s interest, especially if learning involves games. Design a game that is appropriate on your topic. Make sure that it will match on their interest or ability. Grouping students is a great help, if you could classify them accordingly your game will cause a deep impact on students learning.

4. Indicate technology in teaching

There’s no doubt that today’s learners are into technology. They find technology amusing and surprising, using it will make them attentive. Take the advantage of different applications available in the internet about solving math and math practices download for free. Aside from this application, even social medial can be used to communicate topics in Math. To keep them hook up in the topic, you can also give students the web address of the topics on the Google or on you tube.

5. Make them talk

Encourage students to share something about the topic, it could be something they had learned, or something they still don’t understand. If they find talking in front a hard thing to do, find them their companion. One of the best tools is the think pair share. Peer tutoring also provides positive output. Group them by pair, give guided math instructions, ask them to write question on a piece of papers, then later discuss their questions one by one. Questions on Math concepts don’t need to be grammatically correct, just let your students write it on their own words.

6. Use concrete examples
If mathematics is an abstract subject, use concrete examples in teaching Math. Math theories are the basis of Mathematics concepts, but applying it in real life gives students a deeper understanding of the concept. You can bring your class out of the classroom, or you can at least show actual objects in teaching the concepts of Mathematics. In that way they can appreciate Math.

7. Recognize the effort not the output

Scores provide teachers a concrete basis for student’s performance. But also it gives some failing students a negative thought on dealing with their grades. Teachers should be wise enough to explain to her students that grades are just numbers, what are important is the way they understand the topic and the way they do their best, let’s admit it, some students learn after the topics assessment. It will be wiser if teacher can address their effort on the activity.

8. Make them realize that Math is Inescapable!

Math is everywhere. Math is in everything. Make students know their weakness and teach them to start with it. If they find mathematics a hard subject, and their weakness, teach them to accept Math and guide them to deal with it. Make them realize the importance of Mathematics in their life. Address students who are good in Math, and lastly, graduating without Math subjects is impossible.

It’s a teacher’s task to teach students. The joy of being a teacher does not lie on her achievements or on the numbers of recognition or degrees she had finished, it’s on the joy she brought to her students. The inspiration and unspoken knowledge which students will bring with them, as they grow. Teaching to love Math and make students realize the beauty of mathematics without stressing them would be a wonderful job for Mathematics teachers.
References:

Tara Dusko (2018) “5 Fun ways to get your students to love Math”, retrieved from https://www.teachervision.com/blog/morning-announcements/5-fun-ways-to-get-your-students-to-love-math