



Math Trailblazers

MTB Voice

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www.mymathtrailblazers.com www.kendallhunt.com/mtb3

Feature Story

Motivating Your Students!

It's time to inspire math students with your classroom! Decorating your classroom not only makes it inviting to students, but it also inspires them to be creative and can boost learning...



Math on the Mind

Interested in Starting a Math Club?

Digital Learning Solutions

Math Trailblazers
earns Distinguished Achievement Honors

Math Resources



Confident Teachers

Confident Student Keynote Speaker
Watch Dalton Sherman, a confident 5th grader, address over
17,000 Dallas teachers!

Top Ten Rules for School Success!

Confident Teachers. Confident Students.



Kendall Hunt
publishing company

Feature Story

It's time to inspire math students with your classroom!

Decorating your classroom not only makes it inviting to students, but it also inspires them to be creative and can boost learning. When you consider materials for your classroom, keep in mind that you want to both excite and motivate your students without making the room too childish or boring.

Listed below are some more math teaching tips to use in your classroom:

- Small dry erase boards (or white boards from your local home supply store cut into squares) and dry erase markers are great tools when teaching math. You write a problem out on the board and have all of your students copy it down and work it out. The first one that lifts their board in the air with the correct answer wins a treat. (Tip: Set a time limit for each problem.)
- Incorporate computers into your math lesson plans. There is a vast amount of math- building skill games available and, moreover, you will be teaching your elementary students important computer skills. (See the resources page of the MTB Voice for Free Math Computer games)
- Bring child-friendly tape measures to school and teach your students to measure each other. Break your students into pairs and have them measure each other.
- Have your students keep a math journal. This can help them record what they have learned, what they are having problems with, answer specific questions you have asked about math, even graphing things that happened at home. (What time they had supper, when the phone rang, etc.)
- To help those shy students and encourage students to help each other all you need are green and red cups because, if, during a math lesson (or any lesson) you can ask if everyone understands the math problem, those who understand lift the green cup, those who do not, lift the red cup.
- The outdoors is also a great tool for learning to chart with temperature measurements. You can chart the temperature changes, pollen count, precipitation, when the sun rose and set, etc. You can even teach your students to chart how long it takes each day to go places in school (lunch room, restroom breaks, etc.) and compare the times.

Source:

"30 Tips for Teaching Elementary Math"

<http://www.math-lessons.ca>



Math on the Mind

Here are some helpful steps towards starting a math club in your school.

1. Read *Recruiting Students for Math Club* by Harold Reiter
2. Contact other teachers for support and assistance
3. Determine if you will be participating in math competitions
Advantages:
 - This will help you determine what topics to learn
 - This will supply you with materials to use during practice and as take-home workSuggested math competitions:
 - Math League (upper elementary through high school)
 - Math Olympiads (upper elementary and middle school)
 - Continental Math League (elementary and middle school)
4. Contact the school's principal and discuss your ideas
 - Find a place to meet and decide how often to meet
 - Discuss possible funding sources
 - Discuss what types of lessons/activities/contests your club would include
5. Contact local businesses
 - As a possible source of funding
 - To provide snacks for practices
6. Have a presentation or display ready for school registration or schedule pick-up
 - This is a great way to inform and raise interest of parents
 - Have a sign up for both students and parent volunteers
 - For providing assistance
 - For providing snacks (never underestimate the importance of snacks!)
7. Have a handout
 - Describe your program
 - List practice times
 - List competition dates (approximately if not known)
 - List basic topics to be covered
 - Give sample problems
 - Tell parents how they can participate
 - Request corporate sponsorship
8. Make and display posters around the school possibly with:
 - Some problems on them
 - Time and location of the first practice
 - Refreshments will be provided
9. Remind students on your school's announcements
10. Prepare a lesson or pretest (if desired) for your first meeting.

Source: <http://www.txstate.edu/mathworks/teacher/kidsmath/clubsuggestions.html>



Math on the Mind

Digital Learning

Digital Learning Solutions

Kendall Hunt's Digital Learning Solutions offers a distinct advantage to school districts searching for customized web-based solutions for their teachers, parents, and students.

We are enhancing our MyMathtrailblazers.com site to better meet the needs of our customers.

Enhancements include:

Professional Development on Demand

Short training segments that a teacher can access anytime, anywhere, to get the help they need as they prepare to present a specific lesson.

Online Teacher Initial Training

This will help first time teachers get started and feel confident in the material and how to teach the curriculum.

"Considering today's demands on teachers, not to mention increased travel costs, it just makes sense to offer more online solutions for teachers in a format that is flexible and easily accessible." Sheri Glew, Senior Manager of Digital Learning, said regarding the online choices for teacher training.

Online Components

- Student guide
- Teacher implementation guide
- Unit resource guides
- All material previously found on the teacher resource CD

There will be material that can be used with a whiteboard in the classroom, sketchpad activities, and an online planner

Collaboration Area

We will have an online collaboration area for teachers using Math Trailblazers to work together and share ideas or questions. We will also have a collaboration area for students-where they can connect and work with students outside their own school.

"We are committed to improving our products and services through the use of interactive digital learning." said Charley Cook, Vice-President of Kendall Hunt's K-12 division. "It isn't enough to simply offer technology components with a textbook adoption anymore. Our customers live in a world where they expect a custom fit to meet their specific needs, and we feel that we can accomplish that through a digital learning environment."



Math on the Mind

Math Trailblazers earns Distinguished Achievement Honors

DUBUQUE, IA--Math Trailblazers is the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Achievement Award for Mathematical Instruction (K-5) from the Association of Educational Publishers (AEP)

The AEP is a national, nonprofit professional organization for educational publishers and content developers. The distinguished Achievement Awards recognizes the best educational materials such as books, periodicals, educational toys, and software, within subject categories and by audience.

All products submitted underwent a rigorous two-tier judging process by highly qualified individuals who are experts in their respective areas. Instructional materials were first judged in a school and classroom setting. Criteria included teacher instruction, editorial design/integration, educational value/objectives, originality/creativity, and audience interest.

Judges comments for each of the following categories included:

-Teacher Instruction

"Teacher instructions are clear and concise."

-Editorial Design/Integration

"High-quality work incorporates excellence in editorial principles and design elements."

- Educational Value/Objectives

"Appropriateness of content for audience; quality of depth and breadth of subject matter covered; accuracy of concepts and information. Materials meet stated learning objectives."

Originality/Creativity

"Uniqueness of approach to addressing subject matter and meeting audience needs."

Audience Interest

"Success at engaging and sustaining learner interest."

Judges Final Comments

"It (Math Trailblazers) has everything a teacher would need to make learning math fun and interesting."



Math on the Mind



Math Resource Web sites

Here are a few sites that may help you with your lessons. Some include free interactive games and others offer ideas for a chance to break out of the classroom to go on an inexpensive math field trip.

Search engine dedicated to educators
www.google.com/educators/index.html

Site with many links to Free online games that will help students with their math skills
www.homeschoolmath.net/online/math_facts.php

Math Field Trips

Math Mural and other activities.
Click on math club when you arrive at the site.
www.edb.utexas.edu/resources/mathclub/index.html

Math Resources

Confident Teachers

Top 10 Rules for School Success!

Listed below are ten life skills that will help your children develop a "YES! Count On Me" attitude that you can use in the classroom and in life:

1. Use the "YES! Count On Me words: yes, I can, and I will.
2. To get ahead in school and in life-read more, learn more, do more.
3. Learn how to set and achieve goals and how to use these principles in the classroom.
4. No vision=No direction. Write down what you want to accomplish in the first four weeks of the school year. Repeat for the next month.
5. Don't find fault; find a solution.
6. Minimizing the Bummer Words-no, can't won't, never, maybe, and if. These six words will hold you back from reaching your full potential.
7. Eliminate excuses.
8. Regularly ask yourself; "Did I give my best effort to today's activities?"
9. Help others.
10. Remember: Luck comes to those who work hard. This is your life, your goals, and your success. You are a WINNER!

-John Bishop
goalsettingforstudents.com

