Math Strategies for Grades 4-6

Instructional Strategies

Recognize and Generate Strategies for Solving Problems

Provide students with examples that illustrate the use of multiple algebraic strategies. Begin with commonly standard strategies and transition to alternative strategies that may be less obvious. Students can observe that strategies vary in their effectiveness and efficiency for solving a problem. Solved problems can demonstrate how the same problem could be solved with different strategies and how different problems could be solved with the same strategy These kinds of examples emphasize that strategies can be used flexibly, and students are not limited to using one strategy for a particular problem type. Problems that appear different on the surface may in some cases be solved using the same strategy.

Assessment Strategies

Student Tips: Answering Constructed Response Questions

- During the test, underline key words to focus your attention on what is being asked.
- Don't leave an answer blank. If you don't know the answer, write down what you do know about the topic because you may receive partial credit. Always try your best.
- After completing the test, go back to questions for which you didn't know the answer to see if information provided on the test helps you make an educated guess.

Standards of Mathematical Practices

Look for and Make Use of Structure Solve problems involving ratios and rates and discuss how they solved them. Solve real world problems through the application of algebraic and geometric concepts. Seek the meaning of a problem and look for efficient ways to represent and solve it. Check their thinking by asking themselves, "What is the most efficient way to solve the problem?", "Does this make sense?", and "Can I solve the problem in a different way?" Standards for Mathematical Practice Grade Level Emphasis*



Classroom / Time Management Strategies

Time Saving Strategies Create classroom jobs. This will help save you time and teach them responsibility.

Create a system for monitoring unfinished assignments. Teach your students how to be organized. Encourage them to have separate folders for each class and a home folder for assignments/notes. Create your own filing system.

Assign each class a color and keep important lesson materials in each folder.

Reference

