20 Fun Math Activities for Your Classroom

1. **Read a Math Book**: Show your students that reading engaging stories isn’t exclusive to language arts class. You can find age- and topic-specific math books through a few Amazon searches or a brief bookstore visit.

2. **Create Mnemonic Devices**: Create cues such as rhymes and acronyms to help your students recall math facts. For example, “I need to be 16 years-old to drive a 4x4.”

3. **Deliver a Daily Starter**: Drop by Scholastic's Daily Starters page each morning to find entry tickets suited to solo and group work.

4. **Play Prodigy**: Try Prodigy -- a free game-based learning platform aligned with curricula around the globe -- to engage your class with reinforcing and teaching lesson content.

5. **Visit the National Library of Virtual Manipulatives**: Have students visit the online National Library of Virtual Manipulatives to access activities that involve digital objects.

6. **Run a Round of Initials**: Hand a unique sheet to each student that has problems aligned with a common skill or topic. Instead of focusing on their own sheets, students walk around the room to solve questions on their classmates’, signing their initials beside their answers.

7. **Play Math Baseball**: Divide your class into two teams to play math baseball. One team will start “at bat,” scoring runs by choosing questions worth one, two or three bases. If the at-bat team answers incorrectly, the defending team can correctly respond to earn an out.

8. **Start a Game of Around the Block**: Compile questions related to a distinct skill. Then, have students stand in a circle. Finally, give one student the ball and read aloud a question from your list. Students must pass the ball clockwise around the circle, and the one who started with it must answer the question before receiving again.

9. **Play Math Tic-Tac-Toe**: Divide a sheet into squares -- three vertical by three horizontal. Fill these squares with questions that collectively test a range of abilities. The first student to link three Xs or Os -- by correctly answering questions -- wins.

10. **Modify a Classic Card Game**: Put a mathematical twist on a traditional card game by having students play this version of War. Each student plays two cards at a time, but younger kids must subtract the lower number from the higher. Older students can multiply the numbers. Whoever has the highest hand wins all four cards.
11. **Share TeacherTube Videos:** Cover core skills by visiting TeacherTube -- an education-only version of YouTube.

12. **Co-ordinate Live Video:** Don’t limit yourself to pre-recorded videos -- conferencing technology can allow subject matter experts to deliver live lessons to your class. Skype has a list of speakers who voluntarily speak about their topics of expertise.

13. **Research the Leaning Tower:** Delve into the Leaning Tower of Pisa, one of Italy’s famous landmarks. The exercise traditionally spans across subjects, but you can focus on math by requiring students to: (a) develop an itinerary, complete with a budget, for a trip to Pisa, (b) calculate measurements such as the tower’s area and volume and (c) investigate the tower’s structure, determining if or when it’ll fall.

14. **Party on Pi Day:** Celebrate Pi Day on March 14 each year by dedicating an entire period, or more, to the mathematical constant.

15. **Hold a Scavenger Hunt:** Send your students on an Internet scavenger hunt to build research skills while processing new math concepts. Just provide a sheet of terms to define or questions to solve, which students can complete by using Google or a list of recommended websites.

16. **Play One-Metre Dash:** Group students in small teams and give them metre sticks. They look around the room for two to four items they think add up to a metre in length. In a few minutes, the groups measure the items and record how close their estimates were.

17. **Put a Twist on Gym Class:** Fuse math and physical education. When practicing long jumps, students can guess how far they’ll jump and then see how close they were.

18. **Run Think-Pair-Share Exercises:** Launch a think-pair-share exercise to deliver three lesson-processing experiences. Ask students to individually think about topic or question. Next, pair students together to discuss results and findings. Finally, have each pair share.

19. **Hold a Game of Jeopardy:** Transform this famous game show to focus on your latest skill or unit. Setup involves attaching pockets to a bristol board, dividing them into columns and rows. Each column should focus on a topic, whereas each row should have a point value. A team can ask for a question from any pocket, but other teams can answer first.

20. **Take on a Challenge from Get The Math:** Teach your students about how math is used in different careers and real-world situations by visiting Get the Math -- a website featuring videos of young professionals who demonstrate how they use algebra.