



Assisting parents and education professionals in their mission to develop exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning built upon a solid foundation of knowledge.

Ms. Ball – 12/6/23 & 12/7/23

Carly, it was great talking to you about these issues that are coming up in Math. I also noted your desire to stay with the academy but have a main emphasis of PE and a secondary emphasis of upper math. Some of the issues we discussed are below:

Assessments – Scholars should not be failing all the math tests. The scoring is differentiated for each student as the questions in the text are.

Basic Questions – those which are necessary to the content, including the arithmetic

Extension Questions – using the arithmetic in practical ways

Challenge Questions – for those that need the challenge.

Idea: Math teams – creation of teams, especially in the 5/6 group will drive them to learn more, deeper content instead of simply helping others in the class.

Mrs. Murray is looking into making videos available for you to see Singapore in action.

Some students are suffering from test anxiety. We talked about T upstairs who is working in 6th grade math currently. Here is an idea that I used when I had to break them of a learned helplessness and build some resilience:

Take the test, and retype it (or have someone do it for you) placing the questions a bit differently, not titled a test. Then, instead of advertising a “test” come into your class and announce a “quiet” day. For whatever reason, scholars are going to spend 45 minutes working quietly on the packet you provide. Hand them the “packet” and tell them it needs to be handed in within 45 minutes and to please provide your best work. Take a look at the results you get for those students with test anxiety. If there is enough of a difference to demarcate that they perform poorly because it’s a “test” then provide the information to parents and Mrs. Murray so that they can have a conversation. Pressure from home is a key cause of test anxiety and parents need to be aware so that they can change their behaviors at home.

See if that helps!

If there is enough of a difference, you may want to bring that scholar to a conference and show him or her the two papers side by side. The one that has the test title and the one you created. Show the student that they can do better and that you’re scaffolding them into RESILIENCE! They can do it! 😊

The younger we can work learned helplessness out of their systems, the better. They need to practice confidence and fortitude to not react emotionally when given an assessment.