

Math Moment...

Thinking Classrooms

Contrary to what we may believe, many students are not thinking to their full potential in math class. This is well supported by [research](#). Students who are good at math are usually good at following a list of steps required to get them to the answer. When given a problem that requires them to problem solve and think critically, they become stuck and quickly give up.

[Dr. Peter Liljedahl](#), who developed the concept of the *Thinking Classroom* goes beyond the fragmented approach of infusing thinking skills into existing classroom lessons or units. His research shows how to transform the classroom, through a culture of thinking, into a place where the many aspects of high-level thoughts, skills, attitudes, values, and habits of mind are supported and encouraged by the learning environment.

Within our school district, we have teachers collaborating to implement *Thinking Classrooms*. They are creating learning environments where students are required to think about learning collectively and as individuals, constructing knowledge and understanding through rich tasks, activities and discussions. It is a space wherein the teacher not only fosters thinking but also expects it. Social barriers are removed through random groupings, mobilizing knowledge between students and decreasing the reliance on the teacher for answers. Students own their learning, share and persevere.

A Thinking Classroom is ...

More About

- Learning - Who is doing the thinking?
- Student Ownership
- Feedback/Self-assessment
- Dialogue
- Productive Struggle
- Collaboration

Less About

- Memorizing/Recalling
- Student Compliance
- Testing/Grading
- Monologue
- Over helping/ busy work
- Fixed Mindset

#MathFail?

This month's #MathFail? is weather related. What could have caused this error in number representation? Try engaging your child(ren) in discussions about the temperature. What questions do they have? What solutions could they come up with to solve the problem?



Image from: <https://twitter.com/mrsforest>