



MTSS Math Newsletter

November 2024

Math Fact Game – Older Students: How Low Can You Go

This game is a favorite of many of my 3rd and 4th grade students!

Need: deck of cards (ace=1, queen = 0, all other face cards removed)

Deal each player 6 cards. Each player then makes 3 pairs of cards to multiply, trying to get the lowest overall score. When the card pairs have been multiplied, then the products are added together.

Example: cards – A, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9

$$9 \times A(1) = 9, 2 \times 8 = 16, 5 \times 6 = 30$$

$$9 + 16 + 30 = 55$$

The overall score of the other players is compared. Whoever has the lowest score is the winner of that round. Continue playing as many rounds as you would like.

Christmas Gift Ideas

Younger Students:

I Sea 10!
Count Your Chickens
Spot It
SET
Blink
Sum Swamp

Older Students:

Yahtzee!
Blokus
Mastermind
Money Bags
Multiplication/Division Bingo
Trioiminos
Chess

Math Fact Game – Younger Students: Doubles Bingo

Need – blank 4 x 4 Bingo card, pencil, 16 bingo chips, one deck of cards with kings and jacks removed (ace = 1, queen = 0)

Each player fills in his/her bingo card with the doubles sums (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20). Some sums will need to be repeated. On his/her turn, draw a card from the deck and find the sum of that double (example $4 + 4 = 8$). Then that player covers the sum on his/her bingo card. Only one number is covered on each turn. The person who gets four spaces in a row covered first is the winner.

Benefits of Productive Struggle

This year we are focusing on Productive Struggle (allowing the right difficulty of task so that the student struggles some so that learning is occurring). Page 10 of [Productive Math Struggle](#) by John J. San Giovanni, et.al lists several benefits to allowing your child to struggle a little when doing math:

1. It helps the child learn the concept more deeply.
2. It moves the focus beyond recall and rote procedure.
3. It extends meaning of math beyond just finding answers.
4. Students develop new skills and strategies for overcoming new challenges inside and outside of math class.
5. It develops perseverance, resilience, and grit.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Guy at Ida Elementary School: 734-269-9003 extension 3029 or guy@idaschools.org