

What's in store for quarter number four!

Teaching Math!

Concept: Many of you have told me that math is a struggle and that it wasn't always that way. Think back on some of the concepts you had difficulty with when you started making the transition from putting together colored blocks to manipulating variables and calculating probabilities. Don't you wish that someone had explained it better or had a clever demonstration that made it all fit together? Well now you can be that person to some of the lower Bentley students (K-5). You don't have to look far for a topic, adding and multiplying fractions for example is something that these students are just beginning to do, and something many of you still find frustration in occasionally. Maybe there is an interesting thing you can show them about triangles, circles, factors of numbers or any host of puzzles or games that can be linked to mathematics. Keep it simple and to the point.

Assignments: By Wednesday class I'll need five possible ideas written out and turned in. It doesn't need to be a full page but at least 2 sentences on what you might do is required. Just saying fractions for example will not do. I will then place you into groups of three, based in part on what your 5 ideas are, and you will make a plan for what you would like to teach. By next Monday I need a two to three page proposal done (more on that later) in time for a probable field trip next Wednesday to the Exploratorium math exhibits. The remaining week will be spent fine-tuning our presentations for each other and finally meeting up with the lower school Thursday, the 13th of December to bestow our wisdom upon them.

Schedule (subject to change)

Due Wednesday, November 28 th	-- 5 ideas for teaching math	[10%]
Due Monday, December 3 rd	-- Proposals due (one per group)	[25%]
Wednesday, December 5 th	-- Possible field trip to Exploratorium	
Due Monday, December 10 th	-- Have your table done	[15%]
December 10 th – 12 th	We will practice our presentations for Thursday	[15%]
December 13 th	Tentative date for presentations.	[35%]

Grading: Grading will be done on each of the steps, ideas, proposals, table setup, practice presentations, and the final presentations to the lowerschoolers. There will also be the opportunity to confidentially grade each member of the group as far as effort, participation and sharing of work load.

How the honor code applies: You may research in-groups and talk to anyone you like about your project and any ideas for it. You must follow all the standard rules of citation. If you find a web site that is doing exactly what you want to do that's fine, as long as you site it as a source and add something uniquely your own to make your presentation better. All the standard rules about writing apply to the proposals, except that you are allowed to work on it as a group.