

Math Buddies: Multigrade Peer Collaboration

Planning a Math Buddies Session

Introduce Math Buddies Program to colleagues

- Explain how Math Buddies session benefits students by providing an opportunity for peer mentorship
- Describe how students at different grade levels will work together on multistep problem solving using CueThink to structure and engage in collaborative learning

Who will students work with?

- Pair students based on academic ability and sociability

When & where will Math Buddies take place?

- Pick a 45-60 minute block of time that works for both classes
- Select a location big enough for both groups. Groups should be able to spread out and record thinklets with minimal background noise

What will students work on?

- Select a problem based on collaborative focus, content standards and students' needs

Leading a Math Buddies Session

Bring students into the meeting area to set up their devices

- Instruct students to sit in assigned seats with name tags
- Display or pass out copies of "Math Buddies Sentence Frames"

Welcome second group of students as they enter and find their Math Buddies

Introduce Math Buddies and set expectations for collaborative time together

- Encourage everyone to participate
- Ask novice students to use devices to gain hands-on experience
- Ask lead students to guide the experience

Monitor students' collaboration

- Request lead student to facilitate introductions and explain CueThink to their buddy
- Instruct students to work on 4-phases and create one thinklet together
- Encourage buddy pair to view two thinklets and annotate with kind, specific and helpful feedback

Conclude

- Ask students to share feedback and hopes for future Math Buddies sessions

Math Buddies Sentence Frames

Meeting your buddy

- My name is _____.
- What's your name?
- Am I saying your name correctly?

Helping your buddy Understand

- What can we notice about _____?
- What can we wonder about _____?
- What do we estimate the answer will be?

Helping your buddy Plan

- What strategy could we use to solve this problem?
- What can we write for a plan?
- What should go next in our plan?

Helping your buddy Solve

- What should we write or draw to explain our work?
- How do you know _____?
- What can we add to better explain _____?
- How can we wrap up our explanation?

Helping your buddy Review

- Did we answer the *Checking your Math and Check your Recording* questions?
- What can we add to answer this question?
- How does our answers compare to our estimate?

Helping your buddy Annotate

- What do you notice about this Thinklet?
- What is something positive we could say about this Thinklet?
- How can we help improve this Thinklet?