College of Staten Island
The City University of New York

The Art of Mathematics Education

Kristiana Nicotra
Mentor: Professor Alanna Gibbons
Department of Curriculum & Instruction

Verrazzano Honors
TEACHER EDUCATION HONORS ACADEMY
CUNY THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

(I) Introduction

- An educator's goal is to enlighten students and develop their knowledge and skills which they need to succeed in life.
- Many students find mathematics to be quite daunting, with even a phenomenon known as "math anxiety" having come about.
- Several approaches teachers can take to make the subject more accessible are differentiation, purposeful practice, and academic equity.
- To differentiate my research, I have illustrated my interpretations of each pedagogical method to engage audiences visually as well as verbally.



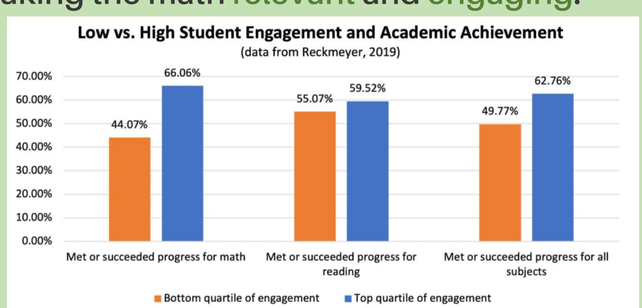
(II) Differentiation

- Differentiation refers to the tailoring of instruction to create a learning environment that is optimal for all students and their needs.
- This includes not only students who may be struggling with the material, but also those who excel at it and need to be further challenged.
- By differentiating content, process, and product, a teacher can help to make mathematics more engaging for the class, fostering student growth.




(III) Purposeful Practice

- Students often see mathematics as boring and irrelevant.
- Purposeful practice allows students to develop procedural fluency and creates opportunities for them to establish deeper knowledge as learners.
- After a new topic has been introduced and learned, the methodology offers students a means for recalling and critically thinking about concepts that have already been worked on.
- Connecting purposeful practice and meaningful contexts effectively enhances student learning, making the math relevant and engaging.



Academic achievement in not only mathematics but other subjects significantly increases when students are engaged, demonstrating the importance of engagement in learning (Toth, 2021).

Reference:
Toth, M. D. (2021, March 17). *Why student engagement is important in a post-COVID world - and 5 strategies to improve it.* Learning Sciences International. Retrieved from https://www.learningsciences.com/blog/why-is-student-engagement-important/

(IV) Academic Equity

- Academic equity prompts not only high expectations for all students but strong support for them, as well, so they may reach these goals.
- Differentiation and purposeful practice play big roles in meeting students' diverse needs and encouraging further academic development.
- This methodology focuses upon eliminating achievement gaps between persistent racial, ethnic, and income groups.
- Supporting the highest level of learning for all students allows movement from pockets of excellence to systemic excellence.



(V) Conclusion

- Differentiation, purposeful practice, and academic equity are important factors when designing and targeting one's mathematics teaching and interventions.
- Students of various levels and backgrounds are more receptive to teaching styles which humanize the learner and their unique needs.
- By applying these pedagogical methodologies, teachers can reduce "math anxiety" and ensure all students are mathematically successful.