

USING THE NEWSPAPER TO TEACH MATH

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BY THE MIAMI HERALD

1. Have the students take out their rulers. Challenge them to choose ads, calculate dimensions, perimeter, and area of the ad...in metric and standard measurement.

2. Have them choose two ads (one very tall, and one very wide) have them guess which has greater area and perimeter. Then calculate to see who is right!

3. Take grocery ads. Have them do comparison-shopping. First, create a shopping list together. "What are we eating tonight? Let's go to the store and buy the items." 1 meat- 3 lbs. worth, 1 vegetable-2 lbs. worth, 1 bread-a pkg. 1 lettuce (preferable a salad mix), and ice cream, cake, or pie (agree on which one, first). Break the students up into groups of 4 or more. Give each group a grocery insert and have them calculate what their bill is before tax, after tax ($\times \$1.05$), and how much change will they get from \$100. Go to the board and post results. Which store will be the better one to shop tonight? It might be good to have them draw line graphs of amount spent versus amount saved, for each group.... Just for graphing practice.

4. Weather page: choose five cities in the United States. Write down the high and low temperatures for today. Again, using red and blue pencils, have them graph the high and low temps on one graph. Challenge them to figure out how to label the graph. Thinking of science and weather (cross-curriculum) what could cause the variance in temperature? Is there a front? Is it because of altitude differences? And so on.

5. Sports: (We have lots of golf around here, so they could see which course offers the best deal). Calculate the differences between winning and losing teams. Figure out which teams did better, percentage-wise. ie. Lakers-50, Schooners-25, / Oilers-30, Bengals-20... In the first game 75 pts. were scored, Lakers earned 50 (50 divided by 75 equals their %) Do the same for the second game & see who had better a %.

Math Skills

How many words can you read?

1. Have each student choose a newspaper article and circle each word in the article he/she can read.

2. Next, ask each student to count the number of circled words and write that number near the top of the article. This activity convinces beginning readers that they can read the newspaper too!

What is your favorite comic?

1. Have students read the comic section of the newspaper.

2. Each student will choose the comic he/she liked the best and cut out the first frame of the comic strip.

3. Use the comic strip frames cut out by each student to build a bar graph. Have a student share their favorite comic strip with the class. All students choosing the same comic strip will glue the frame onto the graph.

This procedure continues until all comics chosen are graphed. Discuss results of the graph.

Number Hunt

Students will need crayons and a newspaper. Numbers will be found according to certain criteria.

Examples

- Red crayon to circle the three-digit number with a 6 in the tens place.

- Green crayon to circle a number greater than 75.

- Yellow crayon to circle two numbers on the same page with the sum of 10.

Call times and have students share their results. The student must be able to tell the class how to locate their number. Example: Page 4, third column, and halfway down. The possibilities are endless. Students must also know this is a game of chance like BINGO and not every number may be found each time.

Alphabet Hunt

1. Students will list letters from A to Z on construction or sentence strips.

2. Have students cut out all the letters of the alphabet from news headlines.

3. Last, glue letters on construction paper or sentence strips corresponding to the letters previously written.

Extension Activity

1. Assign each letter of the alphabet a number value. A=1, B=2, etc.

Teacher will post the values on the board.

2. Students look through the newspaper headlines for an interesting word.

3. Cut it out and paste it on a paper provided by the teacher.

4. Using the special letter-number code,



USING THE NEWSPAPER TO TEACH MATH ... CONTINUED

figure out how much this word is worth.

5. Cut out 4 more words and paste them on the paper. Figure out how much each word is worth.

6. Circle the word in red that is worth the most and blue for the least value. Share results with the class. Do words have to be long to have a greater value? Why?

Grocery Shopping on a Budget

Use a food advertisement and go shopping.

1. Give students a specific amount of money to spend.
2. Have students circle what they want to buy.
3. Students will total the prices on a separate sheet of paper.

See who can come the closest to the limit without going over their budget.

Number Sequencing

Give students five minutes to cut out as many whole numbers as they can find in the newspaper. When time is up, have students glue numbers on paper from the least to the greatest.

Extension Activity

1. Have students circle the largest and smallest numbers on a newspaper page.
2. Subtract the two numbers found. Add the two numbers found.

Recipes

Use recipes from the newspaper. Double the recipe; halve the recipe; triple the recipe.

Algebra

Why learn Algebra. The newspaper has helped solve this situation.

1. We take job classifications and find the ads that have the salary for the position then find out how much money they will get if the person gets to work 40 hours, 30 hours, 20 hours and 10 hours. Then we try to find out how much a week the person can spend on an apartment, car, insurance, etc. using algebraic formulas for all this then they realize that they may have to know something.

2. We also will be talking taxes, lights, and water bills. How much do they have left for food and parties and clothes? What happens if they are supporting a wife or husband and CHILDREN? All had been done with algebra.



More ideas from the Arkansas Gazette

- 1) Check your local newspaper to learn the cost of a classified ad and then determine the cost of different sized ads in that section. Write an ad that you would like to place in the newspaper and figure out how much it would cost to do so.
- 2) Using a ruler, figure out the percentage of space on a given page for ads, pictures, stories and headlines.
- 3) On the front page of your newspaper, circle all the numbers you can find and give the range. Determine also the mean, median and mode.
- 4) Find a recipe you like in the newspaper and then go to the food ads and figure the approximate cost of the recipe's ingredients.
- 5) Look for examples in the newspaper of items that could illustrate the concept of congruence. Explain your reasoning.
- 6) Determine the ratio of sales jobs to factory jobs in the classified ads.
- 7) Using the marriage announcements, calculate the average age of marriage for both men and women. Do this over a period of six weeks, and create a chart and graph with your results.
- 8) Newspaper photos are not always the same size as the size that shows up in the newspaper. Reduce and enlarge the pictures according to the specifications you desire.
- 9) Read your newspaper's birth announcements and obituaries. Figure out the ratio of births to deaths on a given day and the ratio of births of boys to girls.
- 10) Using the classified ads in your newspaper, find the average prices of similar recreational vehicles, such as boats, motorcycles, campers, etc.
- 11) Locate sentence or paragraphs in news stories which could be rewritten in the "if...then" formula.
- 12) After the teacher has blacked out the actual costs of items in several display ads, students should then estimate the costs of products and services shown.
- 13) Identify in your newspaper examples of perpendicular, parallel and intersecting lines.
- 14) In the classified ads find 10 used cars that's mileage is given. Change the miles to kilometers. With those same 10 used car ads, figure out the average price and average model year.
- 15) In the newspaper, find and circle words that illustrate the concepts of size, location, time, quantity, value and money.
- 16) Choose a recipe in your newspaper and convert all the measurements to metric.