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My Learning Stations Differentiated Instruction

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Incorporating Learning Stations into Your Classroom



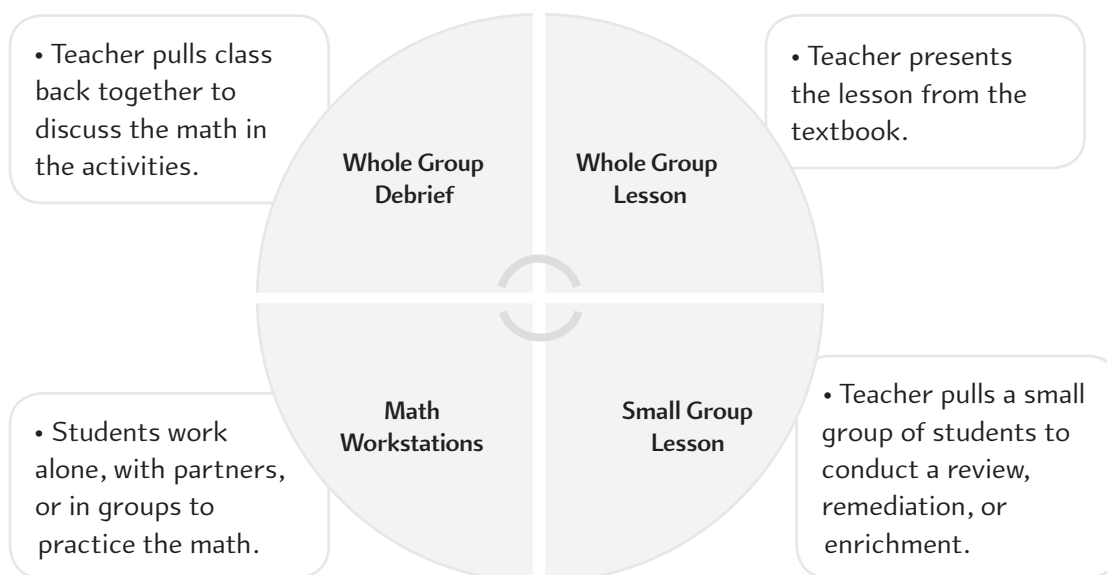
by Dr. Nicki Newton

Mathematics Educator, Consultant, and Author

Math learning stations, sometimes called centers or workstations, are a highly effective way to integrate mathematics into the culture of the classroom. They allow students to explore, practice, or extend mathematical concepts they have experienced in core lessons. *McGraw-Hill My Math* provides the My Learning Stations component so that teachers can easily incorporate learning stations into the routine of their classroom without having to create the materials themselves, and remain confident that the activities are aligned to the curriculum.

What are math learning stations?

Math learning stations are places in the classroom where students work independently or in small groups exploring, practicing, or extending mathematical concepts. When working in math learning stations, students are engaged in problem-solving activities; they are reasoning, representing their thinking, communicating, and making connections between mathematical practices and content. *My Learning Stations* uses Games, Real-World Problem Solving Readers, Activity Cards, and Graphic Novels to meet individual student needs. While students are involved in learning stations, the teacher works with individuals or meets with small groups in order to differentiate math instruction.



How do I get started?

It is important to plan for at least a 10 to 15-day rollout. This is a crucial step in making sure that workstations work! Students need time to learn the set-up of the math block, how to get along with each other, how to talk to each other, and how to work together. Workstations can get very loud so it is important to have a voice level management system, whether it is pencil and paper or digital. It is important to spend some time each day during the first few weeks to teach students how to do these things. Discuss with the class what happens during math learning station time. Write student responses on a chart that you can hang in the classroom. For example:

Math Learning Station Time

See	Hear	Think
students talking about math	math vocabulary being used	This is fun!
students taking turns	students explaining what they did	I can do math!
students sharing materials	students asking questions	I know how to do that!

Introducing the Workstations

Workstations are places for purposeful practice. The teacher should introduce the workstation to the whole class or a small group, depending on the station. It is important to spend the first few weeks introducing and going over the different types of workstations. Develop a chart to present to the class for the roll out.

Incorporating Learning Stations into Your Classroom *continued*

Rolling Out Math Workstations

Day	Goal	<i>I Can Statement</i>	Practice Activity	Anchor Chart
Monday	Introduce math workstations: What are they? Why do we do them? When do we do them? How do we do them? Where do we do them? Who do we work with?	I can practice math in the workstations.	Chart about workstations	What is a math workstation?
Tuesday	Introduce how to read the Rotations Chart. Where do I go today?	I can read the math workstation rotation chart.	Practice reading the chart	Introduce the chart
Wednesday	Introduce and have students practice how to work on individual workstation activities. How do I record my work?	I can work by myself in math workstations.	Practice Problem-Solving Activity	What does it look like to work by myself? (Students brainstorm the chart)
Thursday	Introduce and have students practice how to work with partners in the workstations. Where do we get the materials? How do we work together productively?	I can work productively with partners in math workstations.	Game	What does good partner work look like? (Students brainstorm the chart)
Friday	Introduce and have students practice how to work on group activities in the workstations. Where do we get the materials?	I can work with groups in math workstations.	Graphic Novel	What does good group work look like? (Students brainstorm the chart)

Rolling Out Math Workstations *continued*

Day	Goal	Activity	Anchor Chart
Monday	To make sure everyone understands how to play the Games.	Games	How do we play the game together?
Tuesday	To make sure everyone knows how to use the Graphic Novels.	Graphic Novel	What is a graphic novel? How do we use it in our workstations?
Wednesday	To make sure everyone knows how to solve Real-World Problem Solving Readers.	Real-World Problem Solving Reader	How do we work on this in groups?
Thursday	To make sure everyone knows how to use the Activity Cards.	Activity Cards	How do we work together with the Activity Cards?
Friday	To make sure everyone knows how to work with the Problem-Solving Cards.	Problem-Solving Cards	What helps us to be great Problem Solvers?

Anchor Charts: Setting Expectations

Make different charts that help to show students how to work in workstations. Be sure to illustrate your charts with drawings and pictures to allow everyone to have access including English Language Learners, younger students, and students with learning disabilities.

Great Partners:

- Help each other
- Work together
- Take turns
- Play fair
- Share
- Ask each other math questions

Great Groups

- Work quietly
- Share their thinking
- Help each other
- Record your work

In Math Workstations We:

- Start right away
- Use inside voices
- Are polite and share
- Are helpful
- Record our work
- Stay in the station until the next rotation

Incorporating Learning Stations into Your Classroom *continued*

Our Math Workstations



Graphic Novels

We watch videos about math in real life. We can watch, take notes and discuss the math in the video.



Problem-Solving Cards

When problem solving, we work to understand and solve the problem. We have to take time to read the problem, model our thinking and then calculate our answers.



Real-World Problem Solving Readers

During this workstation we read fiction and non-fiction books about math in the real world.



Games

Games are opportunities to practice the math. We take turns, play fair, and help each other.



Activity Cards

Activity Cards give us the opportunity to work on math problems by thinking about different topics.

Workstations

In all of our workstations, we work on math either alone, with a partner, or in a group. We take our time, get along, and learn more math.

Time Frame

Math learning station time comes after a whole-class math lesson. This is not a time to introduce new concepts. It is a time for students to further explore, practice, or extend a previously taught math concept. To ensure students will be able to work independently during math learning station time, model what you expect students to do at each math learning station. Students should spend between **10 to 15 minutes in the workstation** depending on the grade level. Going through all the learning stations for a chapter **may take several days or weeks** depending on the needs of the students in your class.

Management/Planning Templates

Teachers should plan out the workstations ahead of time, making adjustments to differentiate instruction throughout the unit.

Math Workstations Planner

Group 1 Approaching Level (Things to consider for this unit)	Group 2 On Level (Things to consider for this unit)	Group 3 Beyond Level (Things to consider for this unit)
Designated Workstations (Things to Consider)		
Games	Activity Cards	Real-World Problem Solving Readers
Graphic Novels	Problem-Solving Cards	<p>Questions:</p> <p>What are the modifications and accommodations that I need to make so that everyone can be successful?</p> <p>Who needs scaffolding and how does that look at each station?</p> <p>What are the best groupings for students to work in given their levels and the activity?</p>

Rotation Chart






There are many different ways to do a rotation chart. The Workstation Rotation Chart can have the individual names of students or it can have the names of groups. Often times it is color coded so that students can recognize where they are going by the colors.

- For grades K-2, divide a piece of chart paper into five sections. Label the sections with the following titles: “Meet with Me”, Games, Graphic Novel, Real-World Problem Solving Reader, and Activity Cards.
- For grades 3-5, divide a piece of chart paper into six sections. Label the sections with the following titles: “Meet with Me”, Games, Graphic Novel, Real-World Problem Solving Reader, Activity Cards, and Problem-Solving Cards.

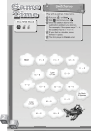




Example 1: Rotation Chart

The groups can be magnetized or placed on Velcro stickers to make them easy to move around.

Math Workstation Rotations

Rotations	Small Group	Games	Graphic Novel	Real-World Problem Solving Reader	Activity Cards	Problem-Solving Cards
						
1 st Rotation 8:50-9:05	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
2 nd Rotation 9:05- 9:20	Group F	Group E	Group D	Group C	Group B	Group A

Math Workstation Rotations

Rotations	Small Group	Games 	Graphic Novel 	Real-World Problem Solving Reader 	Activity Cards 	Problem-Solving Cards 
Monday	Group A Group F	Group B Group E	Group C Group D	Group D Group C	Group E Group B	Group F Group A
Tuesday	Group B Group E	Group A Group F	Group E Group B	Group F Group A	Group C Group D	Group D Group C
Wednesday	Group D Group C	Group C Group D	Group A Group F	Group B Group E	Group F Group A	Group E Group B
Thursday	Group A Group F	Group B Group E	Group C Group D	Group D Group C	Group E Group B	Group F Group A
Friday	Group B Group E	Group A Group F	Group E Group B	Group F Group A	Group C Group D	Group D Group C

Debrief

At the end of the math period bring the students back together in a large group to discuss the activities of the day. Choose some students to share out their work for the day. They can discuss the math that they learned at the workstation. They should discuss what they created and what the math was in that activity. They could discuss an activity that they did and the math that they practiced. The focus should always *be on the math* that they were using to complete the activity.

To learn more about how learning stations are incorporated in the *McGraw-Hill My Math Learning Solution*, visit mhmymath.com