

Active Participation Strategies For Math Class

- **White Boards:** ask ALL students to write answers to questions in the mental math section of the Everyday Math lesson so that you are able to quickly assess the proficiency of each student. Write on your own white board.
- **Thumbs up/thumbs down:** use this strategy to encourage students to listen to other students in the class. Students must learn to evaluate both the solutions and the explanations of other students in the class.
- **Show me the answer:** use a variety of strategies to involve all students
 - Ask students to show the answer by holding up that many fingers.
 - Give each student numeral cards and use these with or without a place value mat for place value practice.
 - Make the number twenty-four.
 - Make the number that is one more than 78
 - Make the number that is one less than 46.
 - If you count by 5s, what number comes after 55?
 - Give students small response cards:
 - Even/odd cards: hold up the correct card as I say a number
 - Shape cards: I have four sides and all right angles. All of my sides are the same size. What shape am I? Hold it up.
- **Think-Pair-Share:**
 - Ask the question and allow quiet “think “ time. This wait time encourages each student to be actively involved in the question.
 - Ask students to tell their partner the answer or explain or.... This allows students the chance to practice on one person before talking before the whole class. This practice helps reluctant students as they can always use some or all of their partner’s words.
 - Ask a couple of students to share with the class, especially those you have overheard who have different ways of explaining or different answers or different methods of solving a problem, etc.
- **“Let go and let students”:**
 - Expect students to do some or all of the Math Boxes independently. Quickly spin off students who are capable of independent work.
 - Give students the chalk/marker and ask them to write on board, chart or OH rather than having them explain while you write
 - Ask another student to repeat what _____ said rather than repeating or summarizing yourself
 - Post student definitions or particularly well-done solutions in a prominent place in classroom to encourage students to think independently
 - Ask students to read directions and problems or have students buddy read the directions or problems

