

Building Relevancy into Your Math Class

Me-Chelle Burkhalter
The Wellington School
burkhalter@wellington.org

Common Goals for Students:

1. Communicate
2. Focus
3. Lead
4. Collaborate
5. Soar

How to Build Relevancy

1. Relevant Topics (Tap into their passions)
2. Speakers and special Guests
3. Authentic Real – World Projects
4. Student Voice and Choice

Where's the..... Math?

Finding math in topics and events

Current Topics

- Pokemon Go
- Bottle Flipping
- Sports – Olympics, World Series, Fantasy Football
- Election (Electoral Voting)

Cross Curricular Activities

- Infusing math into projects and activities in other subjects
- Collaborating with teachers
- Creating projects - Same subject different grade levels ex. 6th grade math starts a project then pass along to pre-algebra and algebra to complete
- Adding topics from other subjects in word problems and activities

Community Speakers

Faculty and Staff

- CFO
- Kitchen Administration
- Purchasing
- Facilities and Maintenance
- Athletics

Parents and Alumni

Types of Projects

- Exploration of a philosophical question
- Investigation of a historical event/ time period or natural phenomenon
- Problem-solving situation
- Examination of a controversial issue
- Challenge to design, plan, produce or create something

Resources: Buck Institute for Education – bie.org

Projects can be authentic in 4 ways

1. It meets a real need in the world beyond the classroom.
2. It focuses on a problem, issue or topic that is relevant to the students' lives.
3. It sets up a scenario or simulation that is realistic.
4. It involves tools, tasks, standards or processes used by adults professionally.

Student Voice and Choice

1. Make students accountable
2. Trust your students
3. Develop critical thinking skills