

ABOUT MATH WORKSHOP

FOUND IN MOST CURRICULUM UNITS, MATH WORKSHOP IS A STRUCTURE THAT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO WORK ON A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES, USUALLY FOCUSED ON SIMILAR MATHEMATICAL CONTENT, OVER TIME. A MATH WORKSHOP GENERALLY INCLUDES 3–5 ACTIVITIES THAT STUDENTS DO OVER SEVERAL SESSIONS. THE ACTIVITIES ARE NOT SEQUENTIAL; AS STUDENTS MOVE AMONG THEM, THEY CONTINUALLY REVISIT THE IMPORTANT CONCEPTS AND IDEAS THEY ARE LEARNING. BY REPEATEDLY PLAYING A GAME OR SOLVING SIMILAR PROBLEMS, STUDENTS REFINE STRATEGIES, USE DIFFERENT CONTEXTS, AND BRING NEW KNOWLEDGE TO FAMILIAR EXPERIENCES. BECAUSE MATH WORKSHOP IS OFTEN PRECEDED AND FOLLOWED BY WHOLE-CLASS ACTIVITIES, STUDENTS HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS AND SYNTHESIZE THE IMPORTANT MATH IDEAS OF THE ACTIVITIES.

MATH WORKSHOP IS DESIGNED TO:

- PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH REPEATED EXPERIENCE WITH THE CONCEPTS BEING LEARNED AND TIME TO PRACTICE IMPORTANT SKILLS AND REFINE STRATEGIES.
- PROVIDE TIME FOR THE TEACHER TO WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL GROUPS AND TO ASSESS STUDENTS' LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING.
- HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP INDEPENDENCE AND LEARN TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN LEARNING AS THEY CHOOSE ACTIVITIES, KEEP TRACK OF THEIR WORK, USE AND TAKE CARE OF CLASSROOM MATERIALS, AND WORK WITH OTHERS.

