

Name Values

Content Standard:

Number & Operations

Process Standard:

Problem Solving

Specific math content or skill addressed:

Addition

Component:

Morning message

Materials needed:

Chart of letter values

Scrap paper and pencils

Message chart (for the morning message)

Preparing students for success:

Students should have some experience with adding strings of numbers and know some strategies for doing so.

Students might also benefit if they do a comparable activity before the meeting.

Vocabulary:

Value, least, most, equal, add, total

How to do it:

- Prepare a chart like the one at the right that gives values to letters of the alphabet.

- On your morning message, include the following related task:

Use the letter value chart to figure out how many points you would get for each letter of your first name. Then, add those points together. Write your name and your total in the space below.

- During the message portion of the meeting, reflect with students on the results by asking some of these questions:

* "Whose name has the least number of points?"

* "Whose name has the most points? So, the range of our names goes from ___ to ___."

* "Whose names are equal in value?"

* "If we were going to add up all of our names together, how many points do you think we would have? How could we find out?"

VARIATIONS:

- Repeat for middle names, last names, etc.
- In the message ask students to choose a word (from the word wall, dictionary, a unit of study, etc.) and calculate the total for that word.
- Use different letter values: five points for consonants, ten for vowels, or a coin value for each letter, etc.

EXTENSIONS DURING A LATER MATH LESSON:

- Figure out the whole class total.
- Ask students "If you could change one letter in your name, which letter would you change and why? What would your new name and value be?" Let students share their responses.
- As a class or individually, have students graph the results from the message.

| | |
|-------|--------|
| A = 1 | N = 1 |
| B = 3 | O = 1 |
| C = 3 | P = 3 |
| D = 2 | Q = 10 |
| E = 1 | R = 1 |
| F = 4 | S = 1 |
| G = 2 | T = 1 |
| H = 4 | U = 1 |
| I = 1 | V = 4 |
| J = 8 | W = 4 |
| K = 5 | X = 8 |
| L = 1 | Y = 4 |
| M = 3 | Z = 10 |

Example: CAT $3 + 1 + 1 = 5$