

Ideas for Getting the Most Out of the

Do+The=Math

Contest

KERA's *Do the Math* contest is a great way to get students excited and to help them feel confident about their math skills. Here are some ideas for how to use the contest to motivate your entire campus to go above and beyond their everyday math class work.

GETTING THE WORD OUT!

- Send letters home explaining the contest. Remember that parents have to fill out the entry form for their child to be entered in the *Do the Math* contest. You can easily copy your letter onto the backside of the printable contest flyer found on our site (mathcantakeyouplaces.org).
- Create bulletin boards or enlarge the printable flyer and post it in the hallways.
- Make announcements during daily morning announcements, in your parent newsletters or at parent/student events.

IDEAS FOR EXCITING YOUR CAMPUS...

- Use this contest as an opportunity to build your students' confidence. Very few students feel successful in math, let alone skilled enough to participate in a large scale contest with elaborate prizes. You may want to draw your own class winners and offer smaller prizes or use the printable Certificate of Achievement as encouragement.
- Have the students write a problem each day for homework or class work and submit it to a drawing.
- Read the problems that are drawn during morning assembly, announcements or lunch time. Classes can have their own drawings or the drawing can be school-wide.
- Encourage students to add illustrations or charts to better explain their problem. Praise them for the extra effort.
- The student who is drawn can receive a prize (a one-dollar prize, stickers or anything inexpensive).
- Display the student's problems on a bulletin board in the hallway.
- Make the contest cross-curricular by involving P.E., music, after school and art teachers.

TIPS FOR THE TEACHER IMPLEMENTING THE CONTEST:

- Collect each entry and submit them to KERA (see contest entry form for details for submitting). KERA will judge each entry entered.
- KERA will list all classes that submit 20 or more entries on our Web site and enter that class into a drawing for a pizza party. Please be sure to fill out the Classroom Group Submission Form for each of your classes when you submit their work.
- You may want to set your school's deadline a few days before the actual contest end date of November 3 to make sure you have time to complete all forms and look over the entries.
- Student entries are automatically disqualified if...
 - The problem and the answer total more than 100 words.
 - The student does not include the answer or gives an incorrect answer.
 - A parent signature is not included on the form or the entry information is otherwise incomplete.
- You also may want to encourage the math teachers at your campus to enter the teacher contest where they could win up to \$500 for submitting their most original teaching ideas. See the Web site for details.
- Please contact KERA at math@kera.org or 214.740.9209 if you have any questions regarding this process.

