Project Summary

Asset-Based Collaborative Assessments

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Background

This study examines how we can adapt our assessment methods to prioritize collaborative learning based on students' assets, enabling them to showcase their understanding gradually. This study highlights the necessity of aligning our assessment approach with how students learn.

Innovations

We share key innovations that were implemented in our classrooms that supported asset-based assessments through collaborative learning. These innovations include:

- Ask The Expert
- Assessment Survey
- Authentic Real World Problems
- Group Assessments
- Student Created Assessment Questions
- Student Experts

Findings

This study highlights different ways we can align our assessment approach with how our students learn. When we emphasize students' strengths and introduce innovations such as Student Created Assessment Questions, this allows students to demonstrate and deepen their understanding of the mathematical concepts. When students were given the opportunity to write assessment questions, they experienced first-hand the value in developing effective questions. Implementing the Student Expert and Ask the Expert strategies empowered students with the solutions to the tasks, resulting in elevated status within the classroom, increased confidence in math, and led to students eagerly volunteering to be the expert. Developing asset-based assessments with students takes time and repetition, as many students initially struggle with change and non-traditional assessments. We came to the realization that in teaching, it is crucial to help students utilize their strengths while guiding them through their mistakes because without discussing mistakes, we cannot focus on assets.

Contribution

This paper provides teachers with innovative strategies to assess students in ways that allow them to demonstrate their understanding in collaborative ways. These strategies expand assessment opportunities to parallel the classroom learning environment.

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