

Using Spreadsheets in Your Math Curriculum

Katie Reel, Pike Township

Amy Schomacker, Pike Township

Our goal was to introduce teachers to some of the many ways spreadsheets can be used with math instruction. Since spreadsheets can be an intimidating tool, we helped support teachers by providing them with simple activities to use in their math curriculum. To support teachers after they left our session, we gave them a variety of online help resources to assist in using Excel once they returned to their classrooms.

Using Spreadsheets in Your Math Curriculum provided participants of all levels with activities and lessons to use in their classrooms. By sharing a wide range of ways to integrate spreadsheets into math instruction, teachers left this session with ways to actively engage students in learning skills such as counting, addition and subtraction, graphing, balancing a checkbook, or calculating a car payment. For example, the following activities were presented:

- Our Favorite Colors. Students create a table with the number of students who choose each color as their favorite, then create a pie graph of the results.
- Birthday Graph. Students create a table and bar graph showing the number of students from their class with birthdays in each month.
- Checkbook Register. Students use Excel to create a checkbook register.
- Locating Coordinates. This activity shows rows and columns with pictures in some of the grids. Students place pictures on particular coordinates or name coordinates where pictures are placed.
- Gas Prices. Using a table of the average gas prices in 15 states, students compute the overall average gas price, as well as the maximum and minimum average prices.

We designed our presentation to model class participation so the participants could see what the lessons we shared would look like in their own classroom. To assist with using these spreadsheet tools once they left the session, participants were provided with online resources and tutorials for learning and reviewing all of the skills taught during the presentation, including:

- Microsoft Office Training: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/training>.
- Microsoft Excel Homepage: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/excel>.
- Design Gallery Live: <http://dgl.microsoft.com>.