



My Keychain Activity

Introduction:

An important goal of our maths classes is to help students know they belong in mathematics. One of the ongoing and damaging messages that is shared about mathematics is the idea that it is only for some people. To help students know that they belong, we have designed a lesson in which students make a keepsake that they can keep and take with them to remind them of important messages. In other belonging initiatives researchers have found that when students make and keep something to remind them of their learning, it helps the important messages stay with them over time.

We have chosen small containers that fit a small piece of paper with the idea that students draw or write something that captures one of their most important ideas from the first week of maths class, roll it up and put it inside the container. One option is the keychains found here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Waterproof-Aluminum-Container-Cache-Keychain/dp/B07C14SXSM/>



An alternative idea to the keychain is that students make a bracelet, shrinkie-dink, or some other tactile reminder.

Agenda for the activity:

Activity	Time	Description/Prompt	Materials
Introduce My Keychain Activity	5 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share with students that they will be creating a message that can be words, drawings, etc. for their keychain. Share examples with students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keychain Examples for document camera
Class Discussion	10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask students what they would like to remember. 	
Make Message for Keychain	15 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give students time to create their own picture for their keychain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colored pencils, colored pens, scissors, paper
Class Discussion	10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand out keychains and have students put their pictures in their keychains. Ask students where they will keep their keychain so they can see it. Which inspiring message they have heard would they like to remember? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keychain

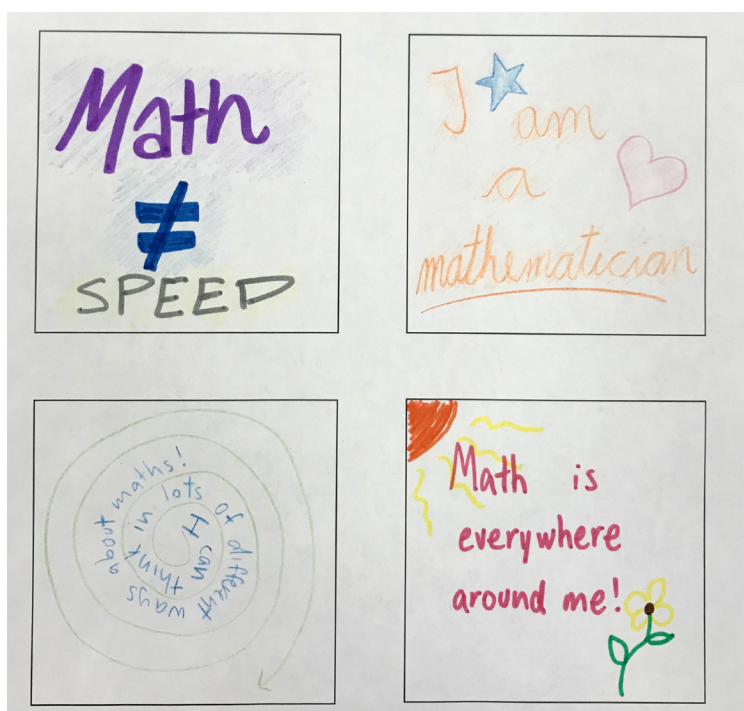


My Keychain Activity

Activity:

Show students the keychain that you will be giving them. Share with students that they will be creating a message for their keychain for them to remember their experiences, learning, and inspiring messages.

Ask students what they would like to remember. Have a class discussion about this and let students celebrate their learning and growth.



After your discussion, handout paper and let students draw a visual representation of something they would like to remember from their experience and learning. Let students know that this is only for themselves and will be tucked into the keychain as a reminder. No one else will be able to see it unless they want to share it. Give students colored pens and pencils and give them time to draw.

Hand out keychains and have students put their pictures in their keychains. The easiest way to put the paper in the keychains is to have students fold their papers in thirds and then roll them.

Ask students where they will keep their keychain so they can see it. Ask students if any would like to share what they would like their keychain to remind them of.



My Keychain Examples

