



Mathkind

# PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING

*Effective math teachers prepare students to become thoughtful problem solvers whose knowledge and critical-thinking skills equip them to disrupt unjust systems, create effective solutions, and lead their communities. The Mathkind Principles of Effective Teaching were created in partnership with leading researchers and frontline classroom educators. They comprise evidence-based practices that are designed to work in all contexts.*



## Focus on Important Content

Everything teachers do should have a purpose. Effective teachers identify the content and concepts that lead to meaningful, significant learning. Their decisions move students from prior knowledge through and to new learnings that matter most. Since there is never enough time to teach everything, and teach it well, teachers must focus on important content that has defensible value.



## Provide Rich Tasks

Effective teachers empower students as confident and persevering problem solvers by engaging them in authentic problem-solving. Teachers motivate students to explore the math that surrounds us by inviting them into culturally responsive learning experiences. Their discoveries build critical thinking across cognitive and social-emotional skills, knowledge, and concepts. Rich, open, appropriately challenging tasks require students to demonstrate their thinking.



## Ask Questions and Listen

Effective teachers value the experiences that students bring to the classroom and believe in their capacity to construct new knowledge. They ask the question, "Why?" and guide students to develop their ideas. They create learning environments where they listen to students and students listen to each other. Mistakes are seen as opportunities to learn. Through making student thinking visible, both orally and in writing, teachers are able to generate discussion that moves learners to think about their own thinking, make decisions, change their minds, and learn new things.



## Ensure Equitable Engagement

Effective teachers create learning environments that are active, collaborative, equitable, and often, simply fun. Teachers motivate students to participate actively in their own learning and contribute to their peers' learning. They incorporate students' voices by including student interests and giving them opportunities to lead and make decisions. Math is adapted to the students' context and made relevant and applicable to the real world.



## Monitor Learning and Provide Feedback

Effective learning requires high-quality relationships between teachers and students. Teachers pay attention to what students are doing and thinking. They provide ongoing feedback that is both positive and constructive. Teachers celebrate students' achievements and guide them to develop their own thinking skills by supporting them in identifying and learning from their mistakes. The ongoing assessment of student understanding equips teachers to design instruction that responds directly to students needs.