

Lesson Observation Tool

Student-Centered · Problem Based Inquiry Driven Lessons	Look Fors	Notes
Launch Lesson Introduction Understanding the problem setting, mathematical context, and the challenge 10 minutes (20%) of a 50 minute Lesson	Teacher communicates student expectations for the lesson (learning targets).	
	Teacher connects the lesson to prior experience and/or real-world context for students.	
	If necessary, the teacher provides background information necessary for students to engage in the lesson (including vocabulary).	
	Teacher spends adequate time on introducing the lesson without spending too much time.	
	Teacher quickly reminds students of prerequisite math skills that might keep them from accessing today's lesson.*	
	Students grouped appropriately for the type of lesson.	
Explore Classwork/Teamwork Students engage in the problem as the teacher moves about the classroom. 30 minutes (60%) of a 50 minute Lesson	Teacher moves about the classroom as students are working, observing and selecting the mathematical ideas students are using that will advance the classes thinking during closure.	
	Teacher asks open-ended questions to probe student thinking, getting them to explain their thinking, generate discussion, and meet a wide range of learners.	
	Teacher questions help students explore mathematical meanings and/or relationships without giving away solutions.	
	Students are talking to each other about the math they are doing, and using math vocabulary while doing so.	
	Teacher/Students use a variety of representations/models to show mathematical thinking (pictures, tables, graphs, words, manipulatives, etc).	
Summarize Closure Teacher guides students to reach the mathematical goals of the problem and to connect their new understanding to prior math goals.	Teacher sequences student thinking when facilitating a class discussion of the lesson, providing a coherent and compelling story line for the lesson.	
	Students make connections between today's various approaches and the mathematical ideas at the heart of the lesson.	
	Students formalize in their own words the big ideas discussed and make connections to prior learning.	
	Teacher paraphrases and summarizes student thinking to make connections to larger mathematical ideas.	
10 minutes (20%) of a 50 minute Lesson	Teacher assesses where students are in their understanding of the math in the lesson (either formally or informally).	

*Ideally, skill builders that reteach essential material covered in previous courses are done the week prior to this week's lessons.