

Make it Work–

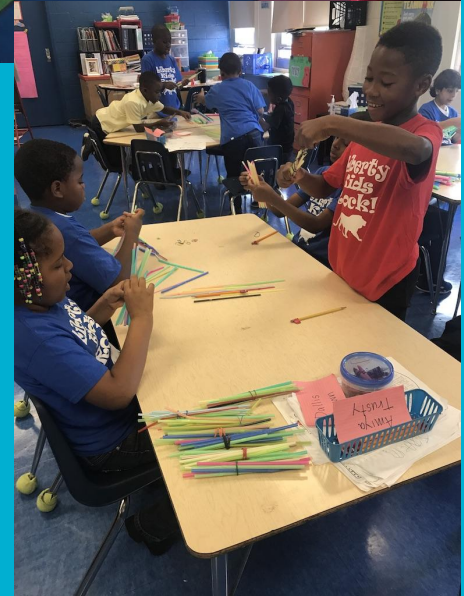
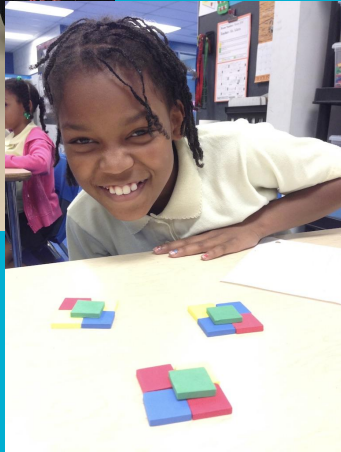
Finding time for rigorous and joyful
mathematics in a prescribed curriculum.

Sarah Smilkstein and Molly Adams

Liberty Elementary

Baltimore City Public Schools

Where we've been...



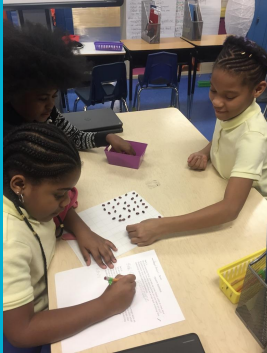
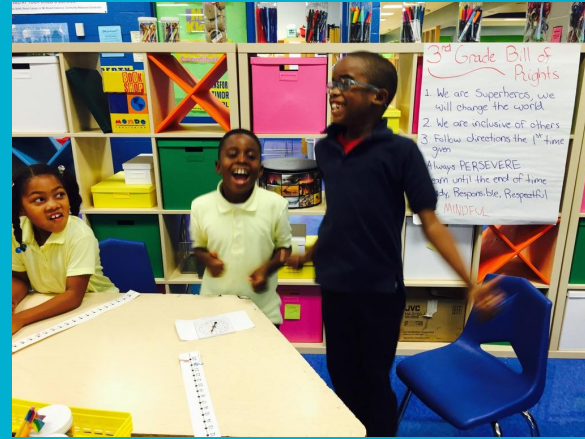
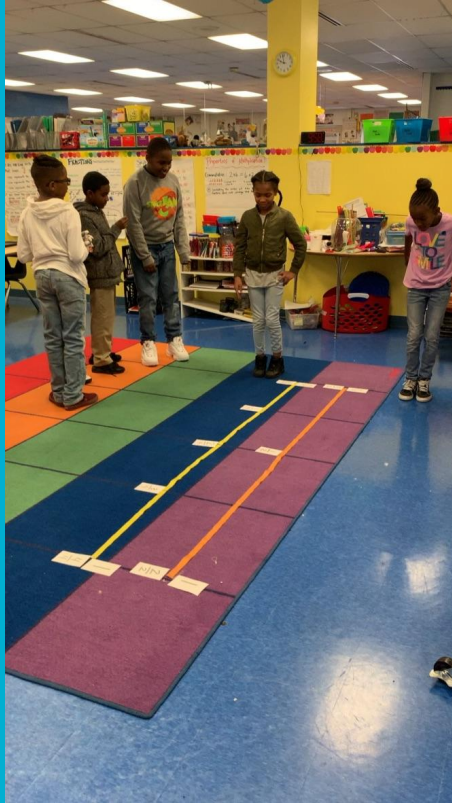
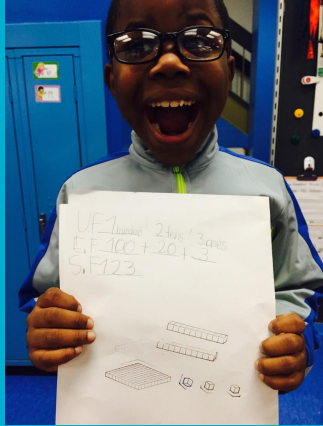
“Just learning how to solve all these math problems isn’t really joyful for anyone, but learning how to use the math for something like saving an egg...”

-Senior district math official

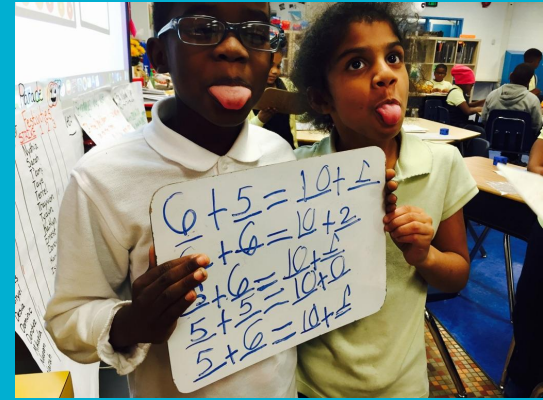
Joy vs Fun

Energy AND Agency

In the Math Block



Intervention



Weekly Task Time

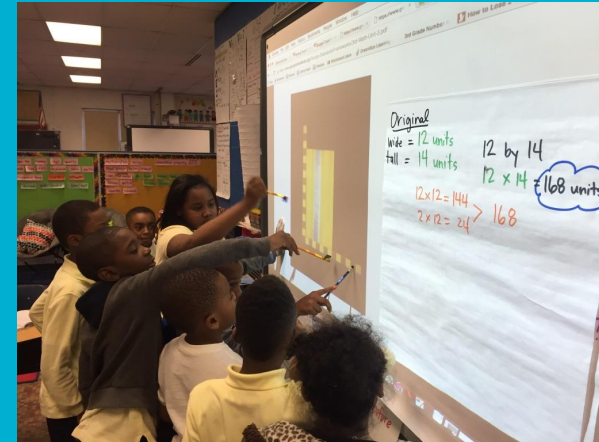
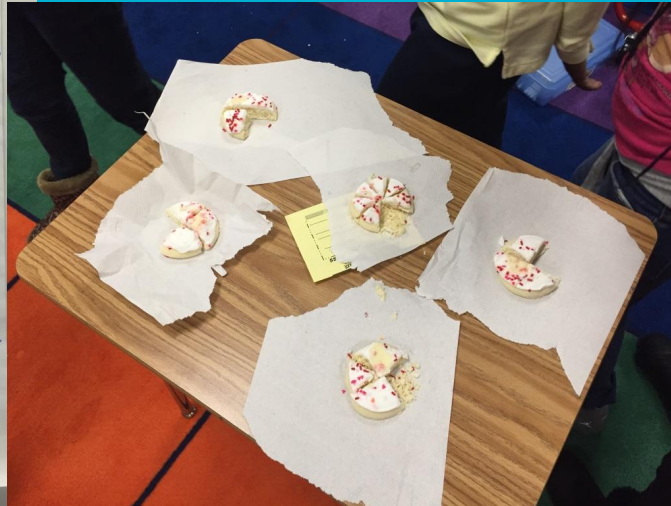
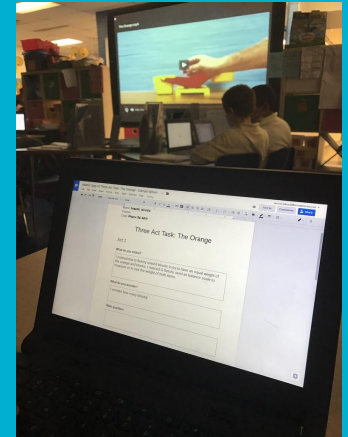
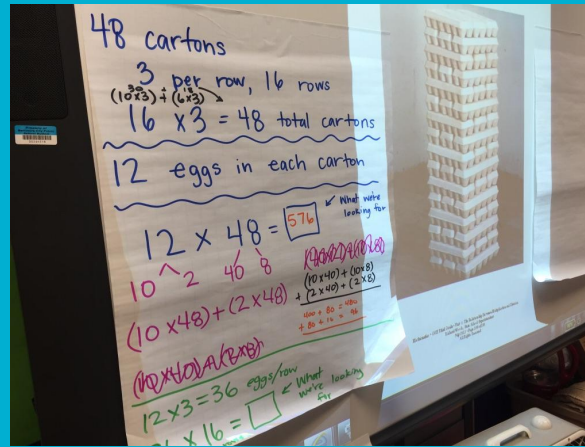
Cupcake Party Time!

What do you notice?

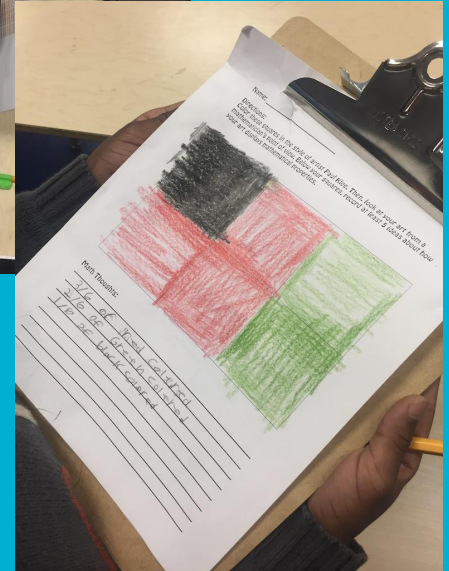
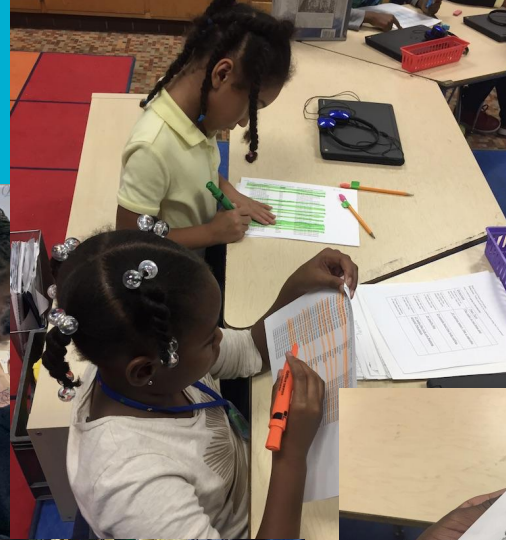
- 4 places set for the party
- She had 3 cupcakes
- Not enough cupcakes – needs 1 more
- Used pictures to find numbers
- There are 3 cupcakes for 4 plates – not fair

What do you wonder?

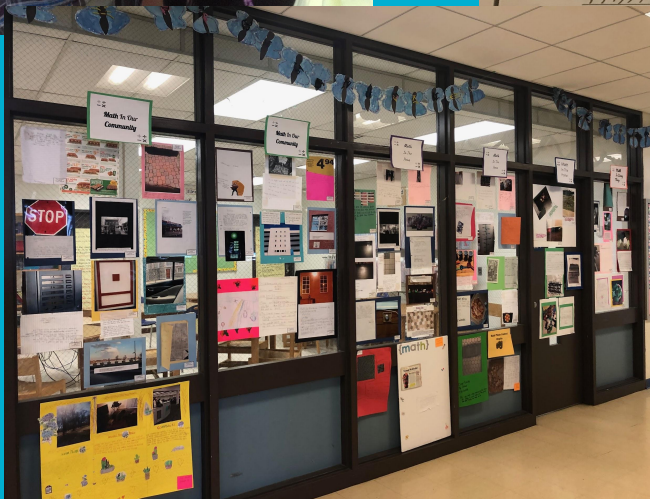
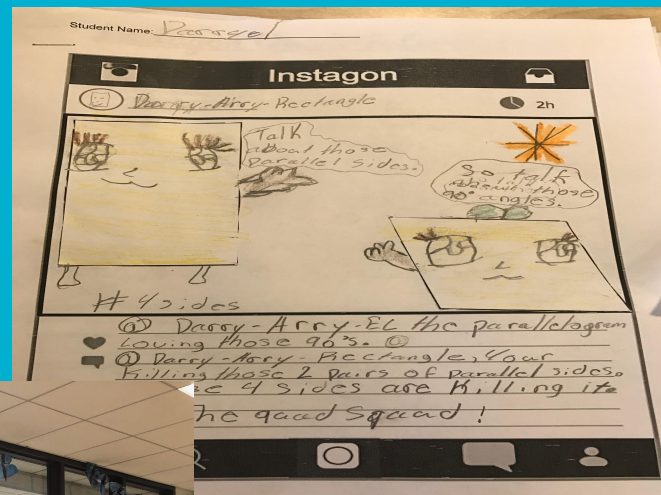
- What if we cut them in half?
- What will the teacher do to make it even?
- Can we buy another cupcake?
- What if we cut them in fourths?



Interdisciplinary Math



Math in the Field (And at home!)



Ways to Bring the Joy

- Find places to add activities and/or manipulatives in the math block.
- Inquiry in intervention.
- Use 'extra' time for carefully selected tasks.
- Look for interdisciplinary connections.
- Projects and contests.
- Find math connections on field trips.

Math in our Neighborhood



Joy vs Fun

Questions and Ideas

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