

# EPS K - 5 Math Newsletter

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## Let's Talk Pacing!

Are you finding it challenging to incorporate IM Centers into your day? IM's lesson pacing will allow you time for Centers. Pacing can be challenging because teaching is complex.

- During the **launch**, the teacher makes sure that students understand the context (if there is one) and *what the problem is asking them to do*. This is not the same as *making sure the students know how to do the problem*. Over-launching is something that can easily happen. Using a timer has helped teachers keep to the suggested pacing.
- While students are **working**, they are doing the math and doing the thinking. The teacher is moving from group to group, listening and posing questions that assess or advance their students' understanding. A common pitfall during the work time is to give "just a few more minutes" so all students are finished with the task, or to show students what to do if they are stuck. We want students to have the understanding they need to synthesize and go onto the next activity.
- **Synthesizing** learning is important for solidifying learning. The teacher's role is to guide students to the big ideas, to make sure that they have understood the mathematics. When we are not keeping to the pacing of a lesson, it is easy to run out of time for the synthesis, or under-synthesize.

## IM Centers

A key factor in the successful implementation of IM K - 5 Math is the frequent use of IM Centers. These Centers, aligned to lesson and unit learning goals, provide joyful, purposeful **practice**, and benefit both students and teachers.

### Centers offer:

- the gift of time for students to muck about in the big mathematical ideas of the unit
- meaningful contexts for engaging fluency development
- opportunities for teachers to observe students doing math

### Getting Started

- Choose a small number of Centers to get started.

### Center Materials

- Centers do not need to be fancy to be effective.
- Use inexpensive tools to protect and store Center materials.

### Center Purpose

- Use Centers to gather data about what students know and are able to do.
- Use Centers to spread math joy and develop math identity.
- Use Centers for joyful practice with major work of the grade and to develop fluency.

(Above information taken from [this IM blog](#).)

## How Do I Manage and Organize Centers?

Start Centers on a small scale. Teach your whole class the same Center and then have them work in groups so that you can set expectations, monitor and give feedback to the whole class. Slowly add an additional Center for part of the class. Practice getting materials out and putting them away. Once you have success with students working independently, you can spend more time checking in with groups of students. (The linked blog post, under Center Purpose, has more ideas for organizing and managing Centers.)

Let me know how I can support you or your grade level in using IM Centers or with pacing  
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