

Classroom Economy

**Power
Pack**

Created by Laura Candler

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Classroom Economy Mini Pack

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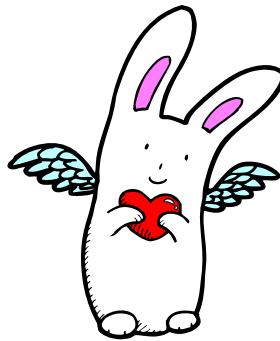


For more information and additional free Teaching Resources, visit www.lauracandler.com.

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Acknowledgements

I would like to express my appreciation to all the wonderful teachers I've known through the years. The Internet has opened my doors to a world of great classrooms filled with inspiring teachers. Thanks for all you have given me!



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Creating a Classroom Economy

Power Pack Suggestions

Power Pack Materials

- Teaching Suggestions
- Classroom Money Patterns (\$1.00 to \$1,000)
- Brain Bucks
- Personal Account blackline



Getting Started

Starting a Classroom Economy can seem like an overwhelming task, but a little planning will have your program up and running in no time! Look over the different denominations which range from \$1.00 to \$1,000. You'll probably want to limit your system to just a few denominations. Younger students may feel more comfortable with amounts that are familiar to them, such as \$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00, and \$20.00. Older students enjoy using the really BIG money such as \$100, \$500, and \$1000.

Read through the list of suggestions and highlight the ones that appeal to you. All of these strategies will take planning and preparation to implement, so you probably want to start small and modify your program as you experiment with new ideas. You might also want to come up with a creative name for your class money. How about Class Cash? Or personalize your money system by using your name or your school name (i.e. Candler Cash or Bradley Bucks.)

Print Money

Set up your bank by printing your money on colored paper. Use a different color for each denomination, and print sufficient copies to get you started. You'll need more of the lower denominations at first.

Create Wallets

Give each student a letter-sized plain envelope to use as a personal wallet. Have them decorate their wallets with their name and colorful illustrations. You can collect the wallets and store them in a safe place, or allow students to keep them in their binders or desks.

Creating a Classroom Economy

Earning Money

Pay for Class Jobs

Using your current classroom job management system, decide how much each job is worth and establish a pay scale. You might want to make less popular and more difficult jobs worth more to encourage kids to sign up for those tasks. Depending on your students, you may want to pay at the end of each day or at the end of the week.



“Hire” Job Foremen (or Crew Leaders)

Consider selecting a different student each week to serve as the Job Foreman. This person checks off each job at the end of the day to make sure it’s done correctly so students can be paid the appropriate amount. You may want to let two students (a boy and a girl) share this job.

Set up a Class Bank

Designate a trustworthy student to serve as the Class Banker. Store the class money in a plastic pencil box or other sturdy container. Keep the money secure during the day, and let the Banker be in charge of paying the other students for their jobs. Be sure to rotate that responsibility!

Use Class Money as a Reward System

Keep a stack of small denominations on your desk to use as a reward for good behavior or kind deeds. One of the best ways to develop social skills is to notice positive behaviors and reward students. Saying, “Thank you, Sammy, for sharing your crayons with Sarah” has even more impact when you slip Sammy some class money at the same time!

Issue Brain Bucks for Creative Thinking

Print some Brain Bucks on distinctive paper. Decide how much they are worth, and keep a stack of them handy in the classroom. When someone solves a math problem in a creative way or gives a particularly elaborate response, say, “You are really using your brain today!” and award a Brain Buck. Make sure students know how much Brain Bucks are worth.

Creating a Classroom Economy

Spending Money

The most important part of any classroom economy is the spending part! As soon as students begin to earn money, they will want to know how to spend it! Each of these strategies is effective but time consuming. Don't try to implement them all at once!



Offer Special Privileges

Allow students to use their money to purchase special privileges. For example, they might want to spend their money on extra computer time, being able to eat lunch with a teacher or staff member, or having lunch with a friend at a special table.

Set up a Classroom Treasure Chest

Collect items from free giveaways, use book club points to buy items, or ask for donations. Many businesses may be willing to donate money or items to help you stock your Classroom Treasure Chest. Establish a time when students can visit the chest without disturbing the class. You can label items with different prices, or establish one price for each visit.

Create a Class Store

Ask students to bring in or make items to create a class store. Let them help you organize the store, determine prices, and make price tags. Some students can become storekeepers while others shop. Make a schedule for the store's hours depending on your schedule. Some teachers prefer the store to be open daily while others open their stores weekly or monthly. Be sure to round up some parent volunteers to help with this project!

Hold Class Auctions

Older students enjoy participating in Class Auctions each month or grading period. Ask parents and local businesses for donations. Students can even contribute used items in good condition. On the day of the auction, let students take turns being the auctioneer while others bid on the items. The sale goes to the highest bidder, of course!

Creating a Classroom Economy

Additional Suggestions

Set up Personal Bank Accounts

Duplicate paper copies and make a transparency of the Bank Account blackline master. Explain any unfamiliar terms such as transaction, deposit, withdrawal, and balance. Give each student some class money for their initial deposit and show them how to record the transaction. When students spend their money, they will record a withdrawal. At first, you'll need to allow a few minutes at the end of the each day to help students update their accounts. Later, they can do this on their own. Note: Plan carefully before setting up this program. It's worthwhile, but time-consuming. You might want to run the program for a limited time only.



Charging Fees and Fines

Want to make kids more accountable for their actions? You can charge simple fees or fines for a variety of situations that occur in the classroom. How about a fee for borrowing a pencil? Or maybe a fine for having a messy desk or forgetting to do a classroom job! Be careful not to go overboard with this one! Your Classroom Economy should be based mostly on positive rewards rather than fees and fines.

Open a Class Marketplace

Allow students to work in teams or with a partner to open their own businesses. For example, some students might design their own stationery, make origami animals, or set up a digital photography business. They should get the business approved by you before they do too much planning. Make sure their products or services don't require supplies purchased with real money since they will only be selling them for class money. They can use class money to "buy" supplies from you such as special paper or paint. They will have to figure out what to charge for their products or services in order to make a profit. Set aside one day a month as "Market Day" where everyone displays information about their business. They can even design their own business cards! Ultimately, they will use their class money to make transactions in your classroom marketplace.



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Brain Bucks

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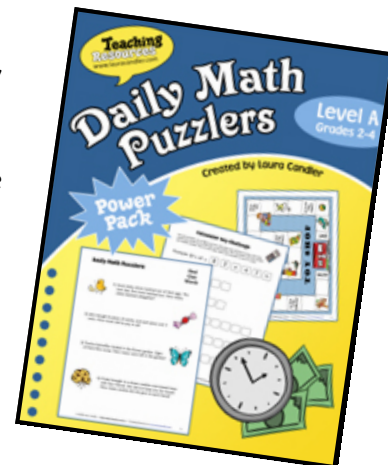
Brain Bucks

More Teaching Resources from Laura Candler

Daily Math Puzzler Program (Levels A - D)

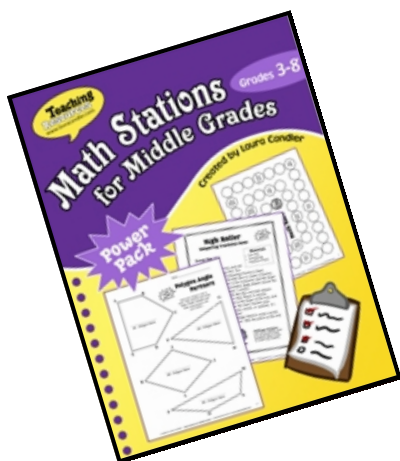
I just implemented Laura's Math Puzzlers, and after two weeks I can already see changes in my class. They are picking up good habits like underlining key words, and writing complete answers already! Each day when we take out the sheet, they know what to do and enjoy doing it. I think part of the fun comes from the program's title "Math Puzzlers". Somehow, they seem to think puzzles are way more fun than math word problems. I also have to say that the breadth of topics and strategies covered in just one weekly sheet is impressive. It is a great way to keep math topics fresh, and have kids apply them to real situations. Each problem could be solved using different strategies, so it has been great for my kids to see all the different ways they could have approached the problem.

~ Dawn, Minnesota



Math Stations for Middle Grades

I just downloaded your Math Stations for Middle Grades, and it is EXACTLY what I was looking for! This is my second year teaching math, after eleven years as a communications teacher. I don't feel I made math fun or interesting for my students last year, which means they didn't learn the things I wanted them to learn about setting goals for themselves and enjoying the challenge for its own sake. Now I finally know how to do that, and I will be able to not only use your activities but build from them and tailor them to my own students' specific needs. Your math stations provide exactly that element of fun practice and social sharing that I hoped to add this year. I can't wait to get started! ~ Shari Miller, Texas



Classroom Goal Setting

WOW! Thank you so MUCH! I just downloaded your Goal Setting Power Pack and I LOVE it! I was most pleasantly surprised because I teach a combination class of grades 6-7-8, and wasn't sure if your pack would be "old" enough for my students! No need to worry....it's perfect! Thank you for a wonderful, quality product!

~ Nancy Berner, Pennsylvania



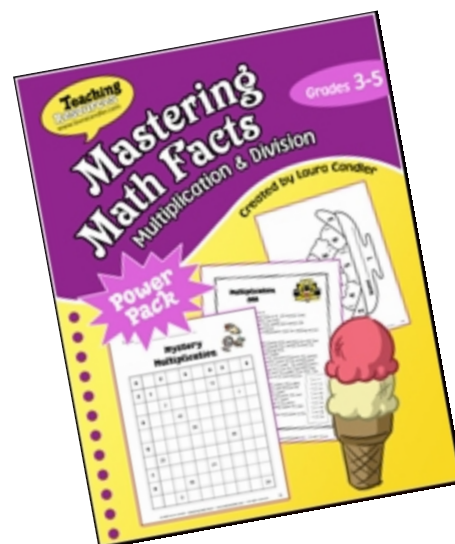
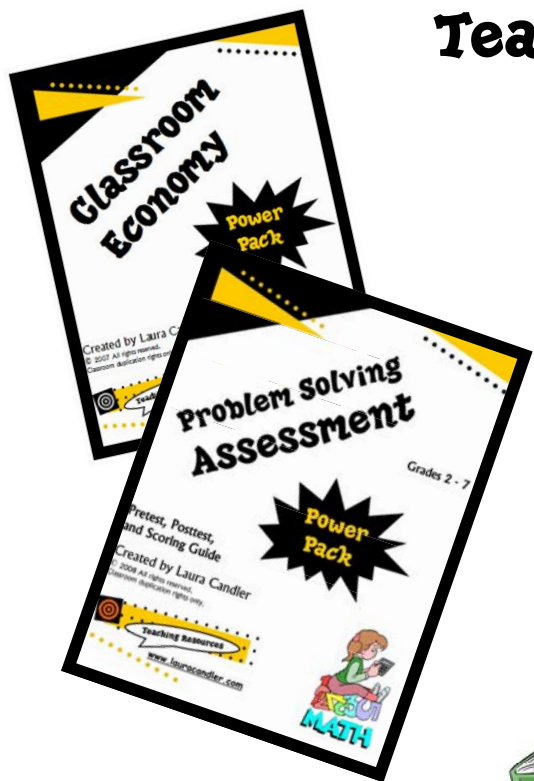
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Teaching Resources Website

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Ready-to-use Resources for Teachers!

- Blackline masters and activity sheets
- Lesson plans and teaching strategies
- Cooperative learning methods
- Classroom management and motivation
- Literacy and Literature Circle strategies
- Mathematics instructional resources
- Candler's Classroom Connections



FREE!

Receive the **Classroom Economy** and **Problem Solving Assessment Power Pack** for FREE when you sign up for Laura Candler's bi-weekly newsletters at www.lauracandler.com!

Workshop Information

- Invite Laura to your school or district to energize your teachers with powerful strategies!
- Workshops available:
 - * The Dynamic Duo:
 - Putting the Punch in Math Instruction
 - * Innovative Approaches to Literacy Instruction
- Teachers walk away with specific strategies to implement in their classrooms the next day.

Contact Laura for more information: lauracandler@att.net

