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EDHD 485

Final Project

Analysis and Data

Montgomery Knolls Elementary School is a computer technology magnet school that provides education to kindergarten through second grade, as well as prep and head start classes. For this project I collected data from the second grade classroom that I have been mentoring in for the past semester. The class consists of 17 students, seven girls and 10 boys. Since the project began, two students have left the class, and one boy has entered. The class is primary African American. There is also a white child, an Indian child, and three Hispanic children.

The data that was collected consisted of the major assessments used to determine grades for each quarter. This information is found in the general grade book. The four areas were homework, language arts, spelling, and math assignments. For homework, each child was given four assignments per week, and the average for the class was found. The language arts assignments consist of three main assignments, as did the math assignments. The last source of data was spelling tests. The teacher used all of the assessments to determine each individual's grade for the quarter.

The data can be used for many purposes including determining the children's grades for each quarter. This is not the only thing that the data shows. After observing the assignments over the spectrum, I found major places of improvement, both in homework and language arts. The average for the class in homework was 16.2 out of a total 27 assignments. The class had a 60 percent average. There were some children

such as NM and PP had most of the assignments completed, and turned in, but a major part of the class failed to bring in half of the assignments. To help improve this problem, the children can be reminded about the importance of handing in assignments so that they get credit for their work. Also, reminding the children, especially those that have failed repeatedly to turn in their assignments, to check their backpacks. OM, RG1, NK, and NU are particularly low at handing in assignments. The parents of these children can be called, and reminded at parent teacher conferences about the importance of homework. Homework is a very important area for children. The class needs to know that they have a responsibility, and should complete their homework and turn it in on time.

Language Arts is another major area for concern. Again, the class average was 60 percent. The class was averaged 13.2 out of a total 22 points. Only one child in the class received the total possible points and only one other child received 20 total points. Four children in the class received less than 10 total points. There is an obvious need to improve the class average for Language Arts assignments. More work on subjects including conventions, and cause and effect should be given. For conventions, the average was 2.6 of a total 6 points. The teacher could re-teach the area of interest, possibly with different approaches. The teacher should also make sure the children master the area before she moves on to another topic. Language Arts is a very important domain, and children need to be able to master the major indicators. Sending homework relating to the places where the children particularly struggle would also be a way of helping the children improve.

Math assignments are a place where the class showed the best averages. There are a few children that struggled in certain areas of the subject. ES has an average of 65 of a possible 84 points. To improve math, practice problems in all areas can be sent home. Also, the teacher can break the class into groups and can work on the skills that need to be developed.

Spelling is the last areas of assessment placed in the spreadsheet that shows the children average grades for four tests taken over the quarter. The class performed less than 70 percent on two of the four tests, and less than 80 percent on one more. The children need to be reminded that they have two weeks to study for their exams and it is for their own benefit to study their words on a regular basis to improve their test scores. A note can be sent home to the parents about the procedure for spelling tests, and explain to the parents how important for the parents to quiz their children. NB, RG2, SR, and ES all have below 25 points, out of a total 40 possible points. It is important to get their spelling tests scores up. Having the children use their spelling words during language arts assignments can help them practice the spelling of the words. Also, the children can have practice exams the week before to see what words they need to study more. Spelling is a part of the children's curriculum that is important to be prepared in.

The data that was collected helps determine more than just the grades for the children for the quarter. The data can help the teacher determine where she needs to improve her own teaching methods. It can show the areas where the class needs to improve, as well as individuals. The data can be compared with other classes and schools, to see where they compare over the county. Each child's grades over all domains can also be looked at to see if there is a general failure or show of concern.

There are ways to improve the children's scores. By using the data, improvements can be made. The spreadsheet is an effective way to find places where the class can improve.