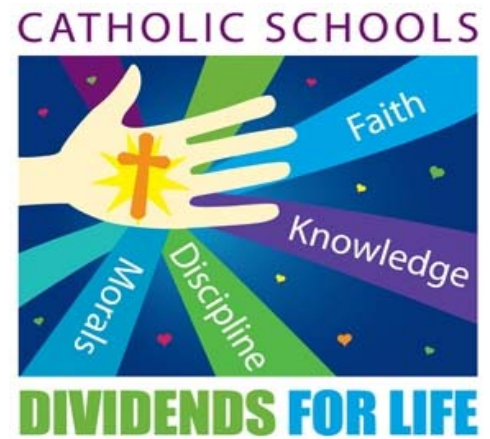
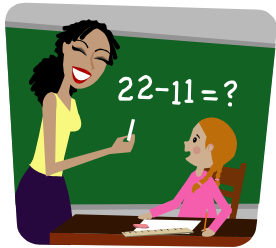


IHM Best Practices



Repeat, Review, and Advance

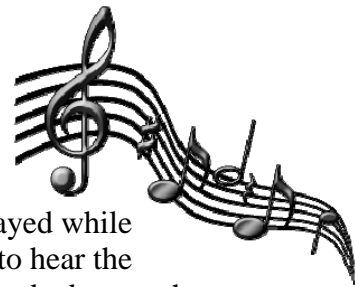
Repetition is the Mother of Learning



The best way to learn something is to repeat the material to be learned. Research has proven that the more something is rehearsed the more it becomes part of the individual. The importance of drill and mental is one such example that proves the more something is repeated, the easier the student will retain the knowledge. The wise teacher must determine the necessary essential learning that must be part of a student's working memory at all times. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts should be part of a child's rapid recall memory. Vocabulary, science formulas, mathematics rules should all be memorized by students. Priority topics are set for math. What are your priority topics for your other academic areas? List these for yourselves and ensure that your students know these essential facts before going to the next grade. It should be noted here that homework and practice is one of Robert Marzano's nine instructional strategies to improve student learning.

The question becomes how do you repeat material until students learn it and still keep their interest? Music and movement may offer a solution.

People seem to pick up the lyrics to songs very quickly because of the beat and rhythm. Music CD's are available on all topics. Imagine if a third or fourth grade teacher had a multiplication music CD that was played while students got out their materials for math class? They may be surprised to hear the students humming the songs as the students are tested. Ron Clark, a noted educator, has a music video out that explains this concept called *Music is Power*. Some students may also experience the need to dance to the music.



While you may or may not like rap, it is very effective in teaching content that must be committed to rote memory. Ron Clark wrote *The Essential Raps CD* that includes: The Presidents Rap, Solar System Wisdom, and The Bone Song. Challenge your students to write their own tunes. Once you understand this concept, you will be surprised what great work your students will do. Ask your students to write raps for any area of the curriculum. This may be done for Confirmation in order for students to easily remember the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Mathematical formulas may easily be made into rap songs or social studies content from the Pilgrims to the election of President Obama. Use repetition until the students have committed the learning to a working memory. Once mastery is reached, review to maintain the learning.

Review

Begin each of your classes with a review of the previous class. You may do this orally or with a short written quiz. If students know that they will be quizzed, they will study the previous night. Vary the way you quiz students. A quiz sheet with 5 questions on it provides a good way to survey, while also giving you an additional mark for the student. A sample quiz sheet is provided here:



Name _____
Date _____
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

Subject _____
Date _____
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

Date _____
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

Date _____
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

Put the above on a sheet of paper, 10 blocks per page. Each day quickly ask the student 5 questions. Be sure to write down the question and answer in case someone asks why their answer was marked wrong. Mark the quizzes daily. Once the paper is completed, record it as a test grade. Notice that this quiz paper may be used for any academic area. IHM Religion, Math, and Language Arts Maintenance Sheets are an excellent and challenging review. Fliers for the maintenance sheets may be found at the end of the *ABC Notes*. Consider taking these quizzes yourself before testing your students. If you have a problem answering questions correctly, you can bet that your students will also have difficulty with it. While very important, review should take a short period of time. Maintenance Sheets should take no longer than 10 minutes per class including the students' taking them and checking them.

Advance



After students have achieved mastery, advance them to new learning. Something new should be taught every day. Be cautious with repetition and review. They are essential to learning; however as in most cases, too much of a good thing may turn bad. 80% is your benchmark for class mastery. Do not hold back your class because some students did not reach mastery. Teach new content and see what can be done for those who lag behind. Possibly another student, a parent, a tutor may be employed to assist these children.

Sources:

www.ihmimmaculata.org (Click on section for ABC Notes)
 www.ncea.org (This site contains the Catholic Schools Week logo along with other pertinent information.)
 www.ronclarkacademy.com
 Marzano, Robert J., Pickering, Debra U., and Pollock, Jane. (2001) *Classroom Instruction that Works*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.
 Marzano, Robert J. (2003) *What Works in Schools Translating Research into Action*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.
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