Classwork Can Be Fun

Review Games for Intro to Algebra 2 at Brookline HS
Why review games?

- Needed to review for midyears
- Wanted to do something different in class

So I made a Bingo game and…

- Kids played along!
- My mentor teacher was enamored!
Why review games?

- I realized that the other teachers didn’t have the patience to make games
- Students found it refreshing:
  - Not plain-old classwork
  - Power point is interesting
How did the games work?

- Class of disengaged students
  - Grab their attention
  - Motivation of scoring points or winning

- Clever way to present material
  - Doesn’t feel repetitive
  - Technology is neat and pretty
How do games help the teacher?

- Give insight into children’s understanding
- Have fewer language barriers
- Make required learning more engaging

Cited: Clark, nrich.maths.org, Bergen
How do games help the students?

- Alleviate math anxiety by making students active
- Give students choices in the activity
- Lower stress
- Encourage teamwork
- Disguise work as play

Cited: Curtain-Phillips, Bergen, Leigh
What games did I write up?

- Bingo
- Baseball
- Jeopardy
- Football
- Basketball

- Followed examples from Dan Meyer

Cited: nrich.maths.org, Meyer
What’s the benefit to my class?

- Teacher has frameworks to play games in class
- Teacher has some fully developed games
- Fully developed games target the most troublesome topics
- Teacher saves her own time
- Games are hosted online, so I am not necessary
Let’s play!

- Baseball
- Teams of 3
- 4 sheets of paper per team
- Solving systems of linear equations
- Note: when asked for a method:
  - Substitution
  - Graphing
  - Linear combination
Bergen, Doris. “Education or Edu-tainment?”

Clark, Faye B. and Ann Dominick. “Using Games to Understand Children’s Understanding.”


Leigh, Cindy. “It’s All in the Game.”


nrich.maths.org. “Learning Mathematics Through Games…”