

DMT INSIGHTS COMPANION DOCUMENT

“Time Matters” Guide for Teachers

1. How Much Daily Math Time Is Needed?

Grade Band	Daily Tier 1 Time	Purpose
K–2	70–80 minutes	For manipulation, discussion, and building number sense.
3–5	60–70 minutes	For problem-solving, strategy comparison, and depth.
6–8	50–60 minutes	For abstraction, reasoning, and formalizing ideas.

This time is for student thinking, not longer teacher talk.

2. The Learning Cycle Inside a Sustained Block

A high-quality lesson needs all phases. Short blocks interrupt this cycle.

Phase	K–2 (70–80 min)	3–8 (50–70 min)	Why It Matters
Warm-Up	10–15 min	5–10 min	Activates prior knowledge.
Launch	5–10 min	5–10 min	Clarifies the task and goal.
Small Group Work	20–30 min	15–20 min	Core thinking time: students explore and discuss.
Whole Group Discussion	10–15 min	10–15 min	Crucial: strategies are shared and connected.
Meaningful Practice	10–15 min	15–30 min	Stabilizes and applies learning.
Exit Ticket	~2 min	~2 min	Quick formative check.

Key Insight: If time runs out before discussion, students do the work but may never make sense of the math.

Final Message: Time is the substrate for learning. When we align schedules with how students think and reason, we build the foundation for lasting mathematical understanding (*Based on DMT Insights: Time Matters*).



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