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Note

Although the examples in this book are tailored for mathematics students, the strategies have been effectively used in many subject areas for years P–12.

Pairs Check With a Switch

Geometry Facts

PURPLE

1. _____ angles total 180°
A) Complementary B) Supplementary
2. _____ triangles have exactly 2 equal sides.
A) Scalene B) Isosceles
3. Skew lines _____ meet in a point
A) sometimes B) never
4. The four angles of a quadrilateral always total _____.
5. List 3 different types of quadrilaterals
A) _____
B) _____
C) _____

Carolina Pairs and Teams

Have you ever taught that “class from hell?” I had a class where all the cooperative learning in the world had not made a difference and we were struggling. We did a Think/Pair/Square/Share on what was wrong with this class. Finally, one young man asked me why I never gave the members of a team extra points on their quiz marks when they cooperated well. Hey, I am one of those rigorous, heartless maths teachers. Points for cooperation – you’ve got to be kidding! Instead of expressing my true feelings about that idea I actually demonstrated some wisdom and said that I would think about it. I would have time to think on my four-hour drive to Virginia to conduct a workshop for teachers. How ironic that the teacher who had no solutions for this class would be teaching other teachers about teaching!

From that trip, conducting the workshop, discussion with a teacher of English and the drive home came a strategy which answered the young man’s question and became a good answer for creating successful learning environments for the next 18 years.

When I presented the idea of Carolina Pairs to that troubled class, they enthusiastically expressed their approval, saying that finally they would receive tangible rewards in exchange for their excellent behaviour.

The following quote represents the goal I have for my classes as we learn to work together.

“Two are better than one because they have
a good return on their labor.
For, if either of them falls, the one will
lift up his companion.
But woe to the one who falls when there is not
Another to lift him up.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9,10

The Carolina Pairs and Teams structures are empowered by the content of the above quote. Using Robert Slavin’s Student Teams Achievement Division (STAD) structure (Slavin, 1995) was foundational for my creation of Carolina.

NAME _____ TEAM # _____

Favourite colour is _____

Favourite musical group/singer _____

Hobbies or freetime activities _____

Places I like to go _____

I am good at this _____

I am bad at this _____

My future career hopes _____

A great summer vacation is _____

I am living for this purpose _____

Favourite foods _____

Person(s) I admire most in the world _____

WHO I AM

NAME _____

Favourite things (colours, foods, places to go, things to do, tv shows, cars
hobbies, movies, music, etc.)

Things I don't like

What I like to do in summer

My future hopes

The person(s) alive now or who lived in the past whom I most admire

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THE SHERIFF

