Math Talk Moves

Paraphrasing some or all of what a student has said & asking them to verify if your statement is correct. This talk move helps bring clarity to the student’s response for both the speaker & the listener.

“So you’re saying…” “What I think I heard you say was…”

Asking students to restate or repeat someone else’s thinking or idea. This move validates the speaker, helps the listeners follow the speaker’s reasoning, & gives students who need more thinking time a chance to process the information.

“Can you repeat what Niemi just said…” “So, Niemi was saying…”

Asking students to apply their own reasoning to someone else’s statement or idea. This move highlights the speaker’s and listener’s thought process.

“Do you agree or disagree with Niemi? Why?”

Inviting other students to join the discussion or share their ideas. This move can be used alone to invite students into the conversation or in conjunction with the other moves to keep the discussion active.

“Would someone like to add on to what Niemi said?”

Allowing for a few moments of silence after a student or the class has been asked a question. At least 10 seconds is a good amount of time to be given between asking a question & choosing a response. The same amount of time is also necessary to give the chosen student time to organize their response after being called on. This gives students who need more time to think the question through & contribute to the discussion. More viewpoints are added to the discussion. “Take your time...we’ll wait.” “Niemi, I’ll give you time to think about the answer.”

Asking students after they listen to others thoughts & ideas if anyone has changed their thinking. “I used to think...but now after listening to Niemi I now think..”

Revoicing
Repeating
Reasoning
Adding On
Wait Time
Revising

From the desk of Stephanie Niemi
IB Coordinator & Math Coach