**Pairing Students Using the Split Half**

This pairing strategy helps so that the highest and lowest performers are not partnered, yet the partnership supports the lower performing students.

**Step 1:** Rank your students from the highest performer to the lowest performer.

**Step 2:** Split them in half (e.g., if there are 14 students, there should be a group of 1–7 and 8–14).

**Step 3:** Pair up the highest performers from each group.

**Step 4:** If necessary, reassign pairs taking into consideration behavioral issues and peer relationships.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Student 1 | Student 11 | Pair #1 |
| Student 2 | Student 12 | Pair #2 |
| Student 3 | Student 13 | Pair #3 |
| Student 4 | Student 14 | Pair #4 |
| Student 5 | Student 15 | Pair #5 |
| Student 6 | Student 16 | Pair #6 |
| Student 7 | Student 17 | Pair #7 |
| Student 8 | Student 18 | Pair #8 |
| Student 9 | Student 19 | Pair #9 |
| Student 10 | Student 20 | Pair #10 |

**Rules for Working in Pairs**

1. Talk only to your partner and only about math.
2. Use a 6-inch voice.
3. Cooperate with your partner.
4. Try your best

**Numbered Heads Together**

**Materials:**

1. Two sets of numbered squares, popsicle sticks, etc.
2. A group container
3. A person container

OR

1. Download: Pretty Random - Random Number Generator.

![A screenshot of a cell phone

Description generated with very high confidence]()

**Procedure:**

1. Place students in pairs or triads.
2. Assign each group a number.
3. Assign each student a number.
4. Students work together to solve the problem and practice how they will explain their solution procedure to the class.
5. When it is time to debrief:
   1. Choose a number from the group container to identify the group.
   2. Choose a number from the person container to identify the person who will explain the solution procedure.

OR

1. Use the Random Number Generator to identify the group and the student.