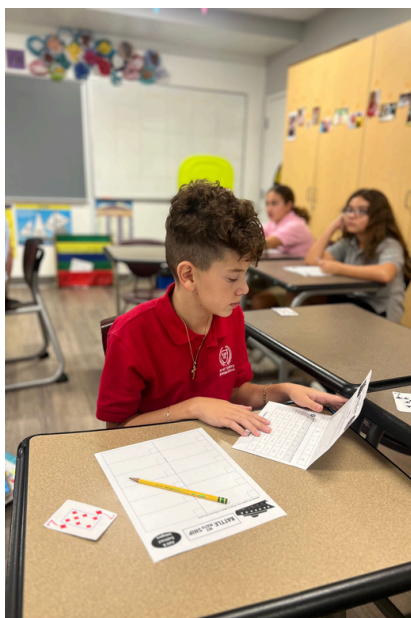


# MATH IN ACTION: 6TH GRADERS SET SAIL WITH BATTLESHIP AND INTEGERS!

## WITH MRS. FISKE

At West Valley Christian School, our 6th-grade students have been diving deep into the world of integers—positive and negative numbers—while adding a creative twist to their math lessons. What better way to reinforce learning than with a friendly game of Battleship?



Lila exclaimed, "I got lots of problems right, but I kept missing his ships!"

Ivy proudly added, "I sank 7 ships before class was over!"

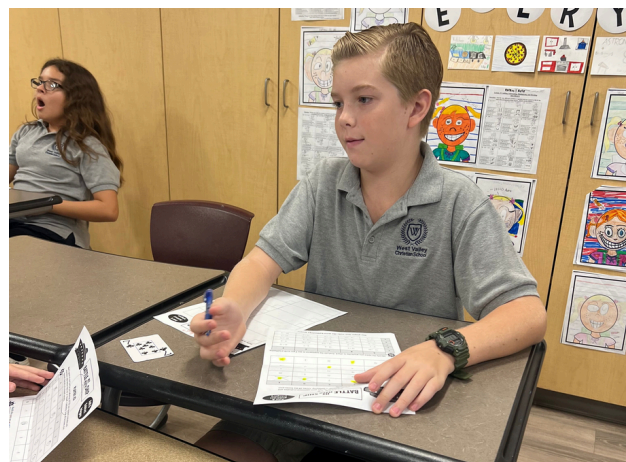
Meanwhile, Hannah shared her favorite method: "Using the counters helps me see how many positive and negative pairs I have. When I remove all my pairs, then what's left is my answer."

For Trevin, the number line made things clearer: "It helps me see how far and in which direction I need to go when I add integers."

And Justin highlighted his newfound understanding, saying, "I know that when I subtract a larger number from a smaller number, I will get a negative answer."

Throughout the week, students learned three different methods for adding integers: using a number line, counters with zero pairs, and the standard algorithm, which they discovered through observation. They also mastered the phrase, "Keep, Change, Change," to help with subtracting integers.

After honing these skills, students put their knowledge to the test by playing a math-infused version of the classic game Battleship. While navigating their imaginary oceans and aiming to sink their opponents' ships, students practiced adding and subtracting positive and negative numbers in a fun and interactive way.



## Academic Skills Developed



By incorporating math into an interactive game, students honed several academic skills. They deepened their understanding of integer operations through hands-on practice and developed critical thinking by choosing the best methods to solve problems.



Additionally, the strategic nature of Battleship required logical reasoning and problem-solving, encouraging students to anticipate and adapt to new challenges throughout the game.



Working in pairs also reinforced collaboration as students shared strategies and solutions, helping each other grow in their mathematical confidence. The playful competition fostered perseverance, teaching students to keep trying—even when they missed ships or struggled with complex problems.

## Math and Faith

At West Valley Christian School, math isn't just about numbers—it's about aligning learning with our core values. This week's lesson in integers reflects the growth mindset we nurture in our students, encouraging them to approach challenges with persistence and a desire for understanding. As they explored methods of solving integer problems, students were reminded of the Beatitude, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Just as we seek righteousness in our faith, our students seek truth and accuracy in their academic pursuits.

By practicing perseverance and integrity in their mathematical work, students learned that solving complex problems can be an act of faith—trusting the process, learning from mistakes, and growing through the journey. This integration of math and faith ensures that students not only develop essential academic skills but also grow in their spiritual understanding, preparing them for both academic and personal success.

