

### **Appreciation letters to our donor**

To the Escondido Education Foundation and our generous donor:

Thank you for the vertical whiteboards that were donated to Del Dios Academy. They have become an important instructional tool for math learning.

At least twice a week, student teams work at the whiteboards. Standing together to problem-solve and answer questions collectively leads to collaboration and allows peer teaching. The whiteboards allow students to actively learn from each other.

As a teacher, I can readily see the strategies and answers from each team, which helps me evaluate understanding. Students also see each other's work. An extension to the team whiteboard work is a gallery walk. During the gallery walk, teams evaluate the work of other student teams, which in turn gives students feedback on their work.

Thank you for the donations of the whiteboards that make my classroom a better place for learning.

Sincerely,

Del Dios 6<sup>th</sup> grade math team

To the Escondido Education Foundation and our generous donor:

I hope this note finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to personally thank you for the whiteboards in my classroom. The opportunity for myself as a teacher to utilize these whiteboards for peer-to-peer and small group work has been an incredible asset to both our teaching and student learning.

The use of these whiteboards has significantly enhanced the interactive nature of our lessons, allowing students to collaborate more effectively, learn from each other, and engage in problem-solving in a dynamic, hands-on way. It has created an environment where they feel more comfortable exploring concepts and discussing ideas, which has fostered a greater sense of confidence in their work.

The positive impact this grant has had on our students' learning experience is truly invaluable, and I am so grateful for your support in making this possible. Thank you again for your dedication to improving our teaching resources and for helping our students succeed.

Sincerely,

Del Dios 7<sup>th</sup> grade math team

To the Escondido Education Foundation and our generous donor:

On behalf of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team, I would like to thank you for your generous donation and your commitment to better our student education. Because of these whiteboards, our students have been able to express their thoughts freely without the fear of making mistakes. We love seeing our students showcase their skills and confidence in their math class.

As a team, we made a list of pros and cons for our studies in preparation for next year.

**Pros of Using Whiteboards with Math Students:**

**1. Encourages Cooperative Learning:**

Students work together to solve problems, discuss strategies, and support each other's understanding, fostering collaboration and communication.

**2. Promotes Active Engagement:**

Students enjoy the hands-on nature of writing on whiteboards. The novelty and freedom it offers can increase motivation and participation.

**3. Enables a Gallery Walk for Peer Learning:**

Displaying completed problems on whiteboards allows students to walk around the room, check their classmates' work, and see different problem-solving methods in action.

**4. Supports Verbal and Visual Communication:**

Students often talk through problems with partners, sometimes even dictating steps, which helps verbalize thinking and reinforce understanding

**5. Encourages a Different Learning Modality:**

Writing on whiteboards provides a more flexible and less intimidating space to explore ideas, correct mistakes, and express mathematical thinking compared to traditional pencil-and-paper tasks.

**Cons: just getting the easels out and putting them away.**

Again, we thank you for all you have done for our students,

Sincerely,

Del Dios 8<sup>th</sup> grade team