Use and Connect Mathematical Representations Teacher and Student Actions

What are teachers doing?

What are students doing?

- Selecting tasks that allow students to decide which representations to use in making sense of the problems.
- Allocating substantial instructional time for students to use, discuss, and make connections among representations.
- Introducing forms of representations that can be useful to students.
- Asking students to make math drawings or use other visual supports to explain and justify their reasoning.
- Focusing students' attention on the structure or essential features of mathematical ideas that appear, regardless of the representation.
- Designing ways to elicit and assess students' abilities to use representations meaningfully to solve problems.

- Using multiple forms of representations to make sense of and understand mathematics
- Describing and justifying their mathematical understanding and reasoning with drawings, diagrams, and other representations.
- Making choices about which forms of representations to use as tools for solving problems.
- Sketching diagrams to make sense of problem situations.
- Contextualizing mathematical ideas by connecting them to real-world situations.
- Considering the advantages or suitability of using various representations



National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. (2014). *Principles to actions: Ensuring mathematical success for all*. Reston, VA: Author.

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