Last Day Blues
End of the School Year
Reading, Writing, & Cooking Activities
**Lesson: Last Day Blues: Discussion of last day feelings**

**Objectives:**
- Students will reflect on last day of school and describe feelings.

**Essential Questions:**
- How did you feel this morning?
- What made you feel this way?
- What will you miss?
- What are your hopes?
- Do you think your feelings will change? Explain.

**Materials**
- *Last Day Blues* by Julie Danneberg
- Class copies of Last Day Blues reflection sheet
- Class Copies of Last Day Blues Trail Mix recipe
- Recipe ingredients
  - 1 large bowl
  - Cups or Ziploc sandwich bags to hold snack

**I Do....**
- Ask essential questions and discuss.
- Explain that it is normal to have a variety of emotions on the last day of school; share and explain your feelings with the class.
- Read *Last Day Blues*, stopping to discuss characters’ feelings and asking students to make text connections. Encourage students to predict how teachers feel on the last day of school.

**We Do....**
- Make Last Day Blues Trail Mix together.
- Read ingredients, asking students what each item represents.
  - Alpha Bits cereal = new concepts learned this year
  - Twisted pretzels = twist of emotions felt on last day (excited, sad, nervous)
  - Whoppers = whopper of a year
  - Good and Plenty = plenty of good friends made this year or plenty of good learning this year
  - Starburst = students will be stars in next grade
  - Smarties = how smart and mature the students have become
- Students write in each representation as ingredient is added and discussed (complete under document camera or on an overhead so students can copy it).
- Explain Last Day Blues Reflection sheet. Brainstorm and record a list of possible emotions felt on the last day of school.

**You Do...**
- Students complete Last Day Blues Reflection sheet. This is the perfect time to scoop snack into cups or Ziploc bags.
- Take a Gallery Walk; students silently travel around the room, reading each reflection sheet.
- Think-Pair-Share: Students share similarities and differences from reflection sheets and discuss highlights of the year.
On the last day of school, I feel

__________________________________________________

I will miss _________________________________________

I hope ___________________________________________

I wonder _________________________________________

I think my teacher ________________________________

_____________________________________________

Last Day Portrait
Last Day Trail Mix

Most students (& teachers) feel mixed emotions on the last day of school. This recipe represents the mixed emotions felt on the last day of school.

Ingredients:

- 1 box of **Alpha-Bits** cereal for ______________________________________________________
- 1 bag of **twisted pretzels** for _______________________________________________________
- 1 carton of **Whoppers** for __________________________________________________________
- 1 box of **Good and Plenty** for _____________________________________________________
- 1 bag of **Starburst** for _____________________________________________________________
- 1 bag of **Smarties** for _____________________________________________________________

Directions:

1. Pour each item into a large bowl.
2. Mix thoroughly.
3. Scoop into cups.
4. Eat and enjoy.
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Guided Reading Strategies Unit
Problem-Solving Pond: A Common Core Math Strategy Unit

Introducing Clark Counting Crocodile
Highlight key words to determine operation.

Math Problem Solving Rubric

In what ways is this problem similar to other problems I've solved?

What are various ways I might approach the problem?

Make a Problem-Solving Pond in your classroom.

Cover bulletin board with blue butcher block paper or blue water paper. You can layer blue and white paper to provide a three dimensional water effect. Use green ruffle, colored butcher block paper and pond animals to embellish the pond. Place Upton Understanding fish at the top of each fish animal, put in curved cutout backgrounds.

Make a Math Strategy Pond for your students to work on their math strategies. As students work on addition problems, have them record their math strategies on a colorful strategy pond paper. Students will have a math strategy pond to work on their problems.