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'Class Act' teacher builds brains during PE

The Jackson Sun

In Lane Willingham's physical education class, Denmark Elementary students aren't just running for exercise.

Students are running to spell words and to figure out math problems, which Willingham said is commonplace in his class.

"The gym teachers ask what math levels the students are on and we try to do anything we can to help the class room teacher," Willingham said. "By including activity with learning, the students are still getting what they need to get from physical education."

An example of how Willingham mixes it up in his class is a game he calls high frequency words.

A high frequency word is a word students will have to use a lot and one they will need to know how to spell correctly.

Willingham divided the class into teams and assigned each team a word.

Then he scatters letters all over the floor for the students to find the appropriate letter they need.

Seven-year-old Jabari Murphy's group had to spell the word, "some."

"Oh, that's so easy," said Murphy, a champion speller. "I can spell lots of words."

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