

Commendation

Ms. Smith's introduction by linking multiplication of 2-digit numbers to multiplication of binomials in algebra was awesome. Demonstrating how those algorithms are linked with the same partial products, and final product put the students at ease. She then scaffolded to show how that algorithm is written horizontally in algebra – relating back to arithmetic . This lesson was made very clear because she also used simple straight-forward examples that worked.

After doing a few problems multiplying horizontally, she then generalized that multiplication and showed how terms subtract out leaving a product of $a^2 - b^2$ when finding the product $(a + b)(a - b)$. She identified this pattern as the Difference of 2 Squares, then developed a simple procedure for the students to write in their notes, with an example, to use when identifying that pattern.

The students were provided guided practice that was paced so she could monitor student learning, and then showed the students how that pattern could be used in computation using mental math. The students loved it.