Does Gender or Grade Level Affect Seating Preference?

Aim

The aim of our project is to find out if gender or grade level affects where students prefer to sit in the classroom.

Materials

- Chromebooks
- Google Docs
- Google Sheets
- Notebooks
- Pens

Conclusion

Our conclusion was that for girls, front was the most preferred place to sit, especially for Year 3 and 4. However in Year 5 and 6, girls preferred to sit at the back. Middle was the preferred seating position for boys throughout all grade levels except Grade 4, where the majority preferred the back. We believe our data can be used to help teachers figure out where their students may like to sit.

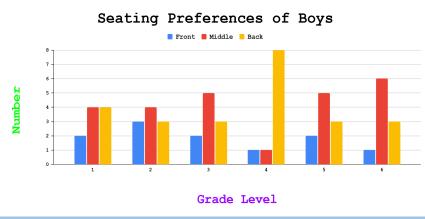
Hypothesis

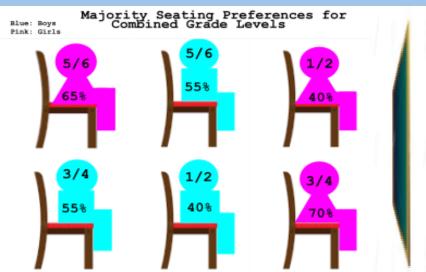
We think that girls would prefer the front more than boys throughout all grade levels. We also think that the middle would be the least preferred seating position.

Method

Firstly, we randomly selected an equal number of students from each grade and gender in the school. Then, we surveyed these 120 (50% school pop.) students during class time and asked where they preferred to sit. We recorded their responses in a Google Sheet. Finally, we reported the responses using 2 side by side bar graphs, one for boys and one for girls. And we produced a classroom infographic to visualise these results.

Seating Preferences of Girls Front Middle Back Grade Level





Discussion

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We found some evidence supporting our hypothesis since, overall, girls did prefer to sit at the front more than boys, especially in Years 3 and 4. However, in Year 5, we did not expect such a sudden change in seating preference for girls. We think this is because of a change in mindset when girls enter the senior grade levels of primary school. We also predicted that middle would be the least popular option overall but we found that over one third of the students we surveyed said they preferred to sit in the middle. In addition, we noticed that 80% of boys in Year 4 preferred to sit at the back, rather than the middle which was the preferred seating position for all other Year levels. This may be because Year 4 boys seem to always be in a rush to go outside as fast at possible when the bell rings so sitting at the back means that they are closer to the door to get outside. Overall, we found that gender and grade level affect seating preferences in primary school.