

1125-G1-2586 **Debra K. Borkovitz*** (dborkovitz@wheelock.edu). *Clock Buddies: An Engaging, Open-Ended Scheduling Activity with Mathematical Depth and Pedagogical Flexibility.*

Clock Buddies is my favorite first day of class activity. It starts as a non-threatening icebreaker activity that helps students learn each other's names, but it soon asks students to find their own strategies for solving a real-world scheduling problem. Even highly math phobic students work with others and succeed. Over the years students have devised numerous strategies for approaching the problem, with connections to graph theory and other topics in discrete mathematics, as well as to number theory, mathematical modeling, algorithms, and probability. Students gain insight from creating different visual representations of the problem and then comparing and contrasting them. I have used the activity mostly for the first few days in my Math for Elementary Teachers classes, but it can be adapted for both shorter and longer lengths and for different courses and levels. The talk will include discussion of the mathematics and the pedagogy of Clock Buddies. (Received September 20, 2016)