A Random Random Random Review

1. Members of the class can be divided into two teams as they enter the classroom. Even-numbered students are to sit on one side of the room and odd-numbered students on the other side.

2. Use a calculator or a random number table to generate random numbers to form groups of 4 or 5 within each team. (This may vary according to class size.)

3. Next, the teacher should generate a random number from one to six. That number will correspond to the section number in the Chapter 3 Review Exercises on pages 186–188. For example, if the number 4 was generated, section 3.4 would be chosen. An additional random number should next be generated from 13–16, since these numbers are the problem numbers in the section. This will then be the problem that all teams will work on together in their groups.

4. The teacher should determine an appropriate amount of time for groups to solve the problem.

5. After sufficient time has elapsed, the teacher should generate another random number to determine which person on the team is chosen to explain their answer to the problem. (For example, ask each team to determine a person whose birthday is closest to the day this activity is taking place, or whose phone number or Social Security number ends in a randomly chosen digit.) If that randomly-chosen person can answer and explain the problem correctly, his or her team receives one point. If not, the other team has the opportunity to select a random person to explain the answer. If the second team gives the correct answer, they receive the point, and it is also their turn to answer the next question since teams alternate going first in presenting the answers.

6. The next and succeeding problems are chosen according to the directions in step 3. It is suggested to end the activity approximately 10 minutes before the end of the period. The team with the most points is determined the winner.

7. The teacher should choose an appropriate “prize” for the winners. Examples of prizes may be that the homework before the exam would consist of randomly-generated problems from the Review Exercises that were not completed during this activity. The winning team would not be required to complete the entire assignment, or possibly they would each receive a bonus point on their upcoming exam.

Alternative Plan

Students can be assigned the entire Review section for homework the night before this activity, and their answers can be checked according to the directions above in number 3. In this manner, there would be time for more problems to be reviewed, but the random selection makes it fair.