

Case Study: Carla Novreske of Chesterton Middle School (IN)

"Get More Math has helped me address many of the challenges I have been faced with [in teaching math]..."



Carla Novreske

Chesterton Middle School

Industry: Public K-12
Location: Chesterton, IN
School Size: 986 Students

School Bio

Chesterton Middle School is part of Duneland School Corporation, a public school district which consists of more than 5,800+ students. One of three schools within Duneland School Corporation using Get More Math, Chesterton Middle School is located in Porter County, about 17 miles east of Gary, Indiana.

Background: Carla Novreske

Carla Novreske has been teaching for 25+ years in settings and schools such as a boot camp for juvenile boys at a state corrections facility, an adult high school, community college, a state university, and finally the public school system. Some of the biggest challenges she's faced throughout her teaching career include helping students overcome their fear of math and making them realize math is for everyone and not just the "smart" kids, overall retention, the struggle to help students persist and not give up, and helping students hone in on attention to detail. After finding Get More Math on social media, Carla states, "My thirst for anything new to help me hone my craft made me curious...and there was a free trial, not just for a short time but for an entire YEAR!" Before using Get More Math, Carla would notice how new students would come to her class with very poor skills in certain areas or concepts that she did not have time to reteach, but Get More Math has allowed her to infuse and incorporate her students, either individually or collectively, with lower-level as well as current school-year skills automatically through Get More Math. "[S]tudents can see all of those skills over and over again and those deficits get addressed without major one-on-one remediation with me."

"It addresses many skills using rigorous questions...the fact that a student can do problems at their own pace, their own level, and keep track of their mastery visually is great..."

- Carla Novreske
Math Teacher
Chesterton Middle School

Documented NWEA
7th and 8th Grade
Student Growth
Observations

**Growth
Demonstrated from
Fall 2019 to Spring
2020**

**Growth
Demonstrated from
Fall 2019 to Fall
2020**

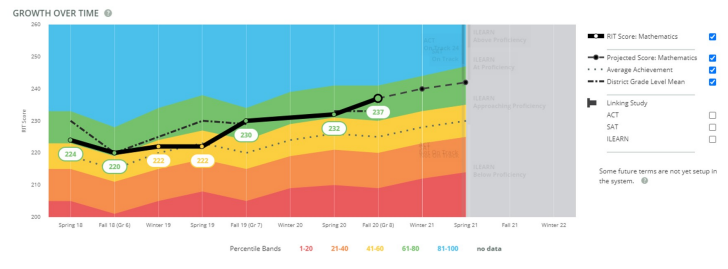
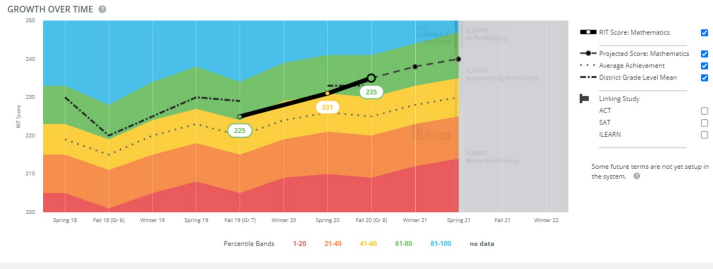
Normal NWEA
Growth Rate:
5 Pts

Largest Student
Gain in Sum. '20
30 Pts

Note: Carla had the
same students for
both 7th and 8th
grade mathematics.

The Challenge

Because Carla Novreske's teaching career has spanned more than 25+ years, she's observed many challenges across multiple age groups. Some of the more repetitive challenges she's seen with her students include: fear of mathematics, dismissing math as something only "smart" kids understand, overall math retention (from past years and current school year), not understanding how math concepts build upon each other, lack of persistence and patience when working through complicated math problems and concepts, and not adhering to the attention to detail and precision that math requires. Carla indicates that there were challenges from a teacher perspective include having to teach with 25 year-old textbooks, purchasing paper and pencils out-of-pocket due to lack of school funding, and familiarizing herself with new technology to which she had not previously been exposed.



The Approach

Because of the multitude of challenges Carla was experiencing on several fronts, her approach was to quickly immerse her students with Get More Math so that she could automate a spiralized review of everything she had taught that school year so far as well as remediate concepts they had forgotten the previous year. Equally important, she highlighted the Get More Math features (raining emojis, built-in games) that would make math fun for her middle schoolers and help maintain their attention.

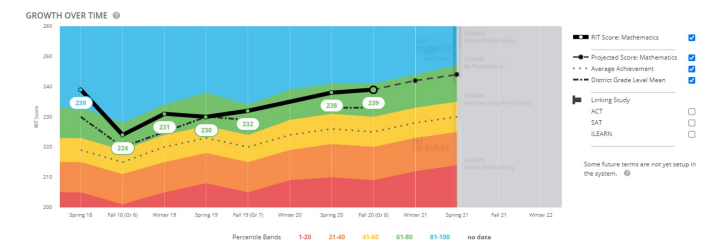
"For us, the idea is that the teacher helps push the class forward...but then Get More Math provides that practice that keeps pushing each kid back over the best or most valuable content that they could possibly do on a particular day."

- Josh Britton
Founder, Get More Math

The Solution

Equipped with practice sets (assignments), mixed (spiralized) review, and cumulative exams, Get More Math's web-based and results-based math practice and retention program provided solutions to address the challenges that Carla's students had been facing. As a result of Get More Math, Carla has indicated and observed the following results:

- All of her students, regardless of their previous math experience, can be successful with Get More Math
- She has observed low-level students "pump their fist in the air" with confidence after getting problems correct on Get More Math
- Students no longer have paper worksheets - they exclusively use Get More Math and only earn a point (reward) for getting the problem complete and correct on the first try
- She no longer has to worry about "a missed negative sign, the wrong label on an answer, an unreduced fraction, or incorrect rounding" because Get More Math requires precision on all problems
- She can automate remediation for new students with poor math skills until they build the necessary foundational skills to succeed in current lessons
- Get More Math support teams and trainers are always available to lend a hand and help her maximize the program to the fullest



About Get More Math

Get More Math provides a web-based and results-based math practice and long-term retention program for grades 3rd through high school math. With built-in printable & downloadable worksheets, cumulative exams (with formative and summative assessments), real-time data reports for teachers and administrators, and Clever SSO integration, Get More Math is FREE through the current school year for new schools, educational service centers (ESCs), afterschool programs, summer programs, and non-profit educational organizations.

