

Teachers affiliated with the Louisiana State University College Readiness and Dual Credit Program aren't the only ones experiencing significant benefits from MyMathLab and MathXL for School. On the following pages, you'll hear from teachers from around the nation reporting programmatic success and qualitative student improvement.

Campbellsville High School, KY

All Math Courses • MathXL for School

The school's math department uses MathXL for School in every one of its courses, from Algebra I through College Trigonometry; it is also used for standardized test preparation, including the ACT and state-required tests.

By requiring students to use correct mathematical notations and to follow precise directions, MathXL for School places the responsibility for learning on the students. In addition, instructors are able to see problem areas for individual students and tailor their classes to support students who are struggling.

MathXL for School enables students to ask questions and continue to learn even when teachers and parents are unavailable. "We've seen students who were not very motivated in mathematics stick with an assignment and earn a score of 100 percent," says Cheryl Dicken, math teacher.

Steadily increasing ACT scores attest to the program's efficacy. In 2009 ACT scores were below the state average, by 2010 scores reached the state average, and so far this year the school has seen a .8 point increase over 2010 scores. Standardized state tests also indicate the program works. In 2009, 25 percent of Campbellsville High School juniors tested at the Proficient and Distinguished level. In 2010, the percentage doubled—50 percent of juniors tested at the Proficient and Distinguished level.

—Submitted by Cheryl Dicken, Math Teacher

The Dunham School, LA

Algebra 2 • MyMathLab

Students use MyMathLab in the classroom during lab days and at home when completing assignments. Students also complete the program's spiral review exercises and practice tests prior to assessments; personalized assignments are created based on objectives not yet mastered. Assignments are created from the program's database of exercises and premade PowerPoint slides. Work completed in MyMathLab contributes 40 percent of each student's course grade.

"The program eliminates the need to use class time for homework review," says Beth McInnis, math teacher. "I'm able to

individualize instruction for my students and to work one-on-one with those students who need extra help or want to work ahead."

Students who previously didn't do well in math are motivated to work problems until they earn 100 percent. Many admit that in the past they exerted little effort on homework that was not checked, frequently writing down anything at all simply to complete the assignment and receive credit.

I'm able to individualize instruction and work one-on-one with those students who need extra help or want to work ahead.

—Beth McInnis, Math Teacher
The Dunham School

Today, McInnis's students are engaged in learning math, are doing more math, and as a result, are seeing improvements in their grades. "Students collaborate with each other and remain on task," she says. "I've heard students say, 'I like doing math,' and one student told me that she was up until 1 a.m. working ahead."

Student surveys completed during the first year of MyMathLab implementation indicate that students believe the program helps them to better understand math concepts. An overall class increase in the number of students earning an A, B, or C and a decrease in those earning a D or F support their claims.

—Submitted by Beth McInnis, Math Teacher

Howard High School, MD

Trigonometry • MathXL for School

John Palumbi, math teacher, uses MathXL for School for assigning and tracking pretests and posttests, as well as for in-class assignments, homework, quizzes, and tests. "I also use the program to assess and integrate new students, as a source of additional resources, and for easy tracking and assessment of students on home or hospital leave," he says.

MathXL for School provides a platform for students to become independent learners in a way that is relevant to them in 2011.

—John Palumbi, Math Teacher
Howard High School

Students use MathXL for School almost daily for homework assignments, and weekly for tests and quizzes. They most frequently use it outside the classroom—either at home or in the media center after school. The program provides students with a variety of learning resources, including Help Me Solve This, Show Me an Example, videos, and animations. A full 100 percent of Palumbi’s students’ overall course grade is determined by their work in MathXL for School.

“MathXL for School provides a platform for students to become independent learners in a way that is relevant to them in 2011,” Palumbi says. “It’s a massive improvement over the traditional classroom in which students must either refer to the back of the book or wait until the next day or later to learn how they are doing.”

Palumbi’s students have a positive attitude about MathXL for School. “They like that I know their progress, that the computer helps them right when they need it, and that they can keep improving despite simple errors,” he says.

—Submitted by John Palumbi, Math Teacher

Riverside High School, PA

AP Calculus • MathXL for School

Michael Houston, math teacher at Riverside High School, uses MathXL for School as a learning supplement, for homework, and to create tests. All of the assignments he uses in his course are premade within the program. Work completed using MathXL for School contributes approximately 15 percent to each student’s total course grade.

MathXL for School saves Houston time. “It enables me to easily provide my students with additional homework problems, as well as quickly create objective-driven tests,” he says. “Another great feature is the ability to create a course shell so next year I don’t have to reinvent the wheel.”

—Submitted by Michael Houston, Math Teacher

St. John Vianney High School, MO

Algebra II, Trigonometry • MathXL for School

Dennis Flaherty’s students use MathXL for School two to three times a week—both in the lab and in the classroom—for homework and for test preparation. The program’s premade sample assignments help his students prepare for tests and act as a tool for self-paced, interactive remediation.

Because MathXL for School automatically grades homework assignments, Flaherty can assign more of them, increasing his students’ time on task and making homework a value add.

Flaherty quickly experienced the value of the program and the connection between required use and increased success. “When I first started using MathXL for School, only 10 percent of the students’ grade was determined by their work online,” he says. “Today, it is closer to 60 percent.”

MathXL for School helps Flaherty provide hands-on help to those students who need help the most, and to point those who simply need a nudge in the right direction to the program’s multimedia features. And because MathXL for School automatically grades homework assignments, Flaherty can assign more of them, increasing his students’ time on task and making homework a value add.

Students’ test scores have improved since the school started using MathXL for School. Flaherty attributes the improvement to his students’ engagement in the program and its immediate feedback and remediation features.

—Submitted by Dennis Flaherty, Math Teacher