

Making math magic at PEAK Charter School

Recipient of U.S. Department of Education grant shares successful techniques statewide



PEAK students use STAR Math, Accelerated Math, and MathFacts in a Flash systematically. The school won a grant to spread their success using these programs to other charter schools.

In a converted warehouse in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Flagstaff, Arizona, something magical is happening—a quiet show of academic and life skills is beginning to attract attention from larger audiences.

The student body at the state-sponsored Pathways to Educational Acceleration for Kids (PEAK) Charter School has met with uncommon success, often making multiple-grade gains in mathematics and other subjects in less than one year.

The school, where nearly half the students participate in the free and reduced lunch program, might have remained low-profile. But in 2006, they won a prestigious two-year U.S. Department of Education Dissemination Grant that allows them to export their success to other charter schools across the state.

Behind the scenes, Ron Drossman, the

school's co-founder, said an important part of their students' success is the use of Accelerated Math.

Every K-8 student follows an individualized program catering to his or her personal interests, learning how to set and achieve personal goals which, in turn, assists them to learn at their own pace while still being challenged.

Because the software provides teachers with continuous feedback to personalize instruction and enables children to practice their math skills at their own individual level, Drossman said Accelerated Math "aligned perfectly" with the school's charter to produce dramatic results.

Drossman invested in professional development to help the staff learn to implement Accelerated Math using the best classroom practices. The students became energized about math, sending them off the charts in math achievement.

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"Students started averaging two years of growth per school year, right from the end of the first year," Drossman said. "We continue to see even greater growth as we systematically use STAR Math, Accelerated Math, and MathFacts in a Flash."

With money from the grant, and professional development from Renaissance Learning, PEAK is introducing this success to both charter and public schools in Arizona.

Drossman's staff connected with a Renaissance Implementation Coach that not only helped them implement the programs better at their school, but also provided train-the-trainer sessions to help them train others.

Drossman is pleased that the grant allows their staff to spread the message of how Accelerated Math can accelerate student achievement when it is properly implemented through professional development.

"Without the foundations of how to use the product, you're not going to be effective," Drossman said. "And without that training, there would be no grant." ■

What does an Accelerated Math classroom look like?

Request the FREE DVD, *The Power of Personalized Math Practice*

See and hear firsthand how Accelerated Math works successfully in three different schools.

Call (800) 656-6740, ref. #12018 to reserve your FREE copy today!