SUCCESS STORY

Game-Changer in Greenville, South Carolina

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Name

Powdersville Elementary School

Location

Greenville, South Carolina

Enrollment

500

A Common Problem

In 2012, Teresa Garrett, a fifth grade teacher of 15 years at Powdersville Elementary, encountered a familiar problem - the school was struggling to meet the Common Core State Standards in elementary mathematics with the curriculum they were using.

As the newest of nine elementary schools in Anderson School District One, Garrett's school, Powdersville Elementary, currently serves more than 500 children in grades three through five.

Having been named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2010 and being consistently honored for closing achievement gaps year after year, Powdersville Elementary, led by Garrett's efforts sought to invest in a new elementary program built to the standards.

89%	6%	3%	2%
CAUCASIAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC	AMERICAN INDIAN, INDIAN, ASIAN, MULTIRACIAL

ENROLLMENT

McGraw-Hill My Math

Powdersville is in its first year using *McGraw-Hill My Math* and the school is now using the program in all three elementary grades within the building.

Built specifically to meet the requirements of the Common Core State Standards, *McGraw-Hill My Math* focuses on the Common Core's three components of rigor (Conceptual Understanding, Procedural Skill and Fluency, and Application), which are woven throughout the program in equal intensity, allowing students to progress toward a higher level of achievement.

Garrett says she appreciates the *McGraw-Hill My Math* approach because it "seems to have the right combination of parent involvement, technology and ease of use. I love that you can tear stuff out and I don't have to make copies."

The Tech Factor

Since technology is always top-of-mind for teachers like Garrett, she praised the digital engagement of *My Math*.

"*McGraw-Hill My Math* features are games and video introductions that are short, to-the-point and modern enough to keep students' attention", she says. Garrett also likes having access to the e-book online, since every student next year will be equipped with an iPad.

"The fact that they will be able to access the book on the iPad is very important to us," Garrett says. While there is usually a learning curve when teachers begin using new curricula, Garrett says McGraw Hill Education's professional development, including online videos depicting instructors teaching the lessons, was invaluable in helping Powdersville educators get up to speed.

"The videos are great, not just for teachers, but they can help with parents to engage with their child's lessons," Garrett notes.

Differentiated Instruction and ELL Support within *My Math*

While students range in math ability, *McGraw-Hill My Math* provides teachers the ability to differentiate instruction. Garrett says this is especially important in reaching English Language Learners (ELLs), noting that Anderson School District One serves students from 27 different countries. "The vocabulary cards are a tremendous help for the ELL students to understand the lessons," Garrett says. "I love how it has room on the page to work a problem, take notes, etc. It's great because they don't have to flip back and forth."

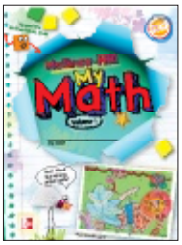
Struggling learners also find *McGraw-Hill My Math* easier to use than some previous curricula, Garrett says, citing one of her students as a prime example. "I had several students in a learning-challenged group," she says. "These students have special needs in reading, and for them to remember the order of operations is sometimes difficult. *My Math* includes a *Foldable*® (tool) to help students remember the order of operations. My students were taking notes on their Foldables and suddenly, a girl shouted out 'Oh, my gosh! Can I use this on my test?'

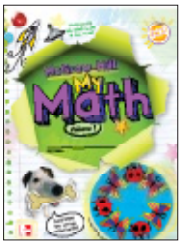
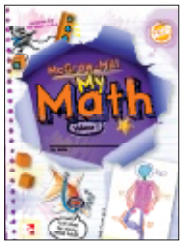
The tool made sense to her because the Foldable helped her to visualize the steps. This is just one story out of many in which *McGraw-Hill My Math* has gotten my students excited about learning math."

About Vocabulary Cards

Vocabulary cards are available in Spanish as well as English, and can help build mathematical language for all students, not just ELL learners. Additional support for ELL students includes Emerging, Expanding, and Bridging differentiation within all lessons using sentence frames, oral communication, group work, background knowledge and other language strategies.



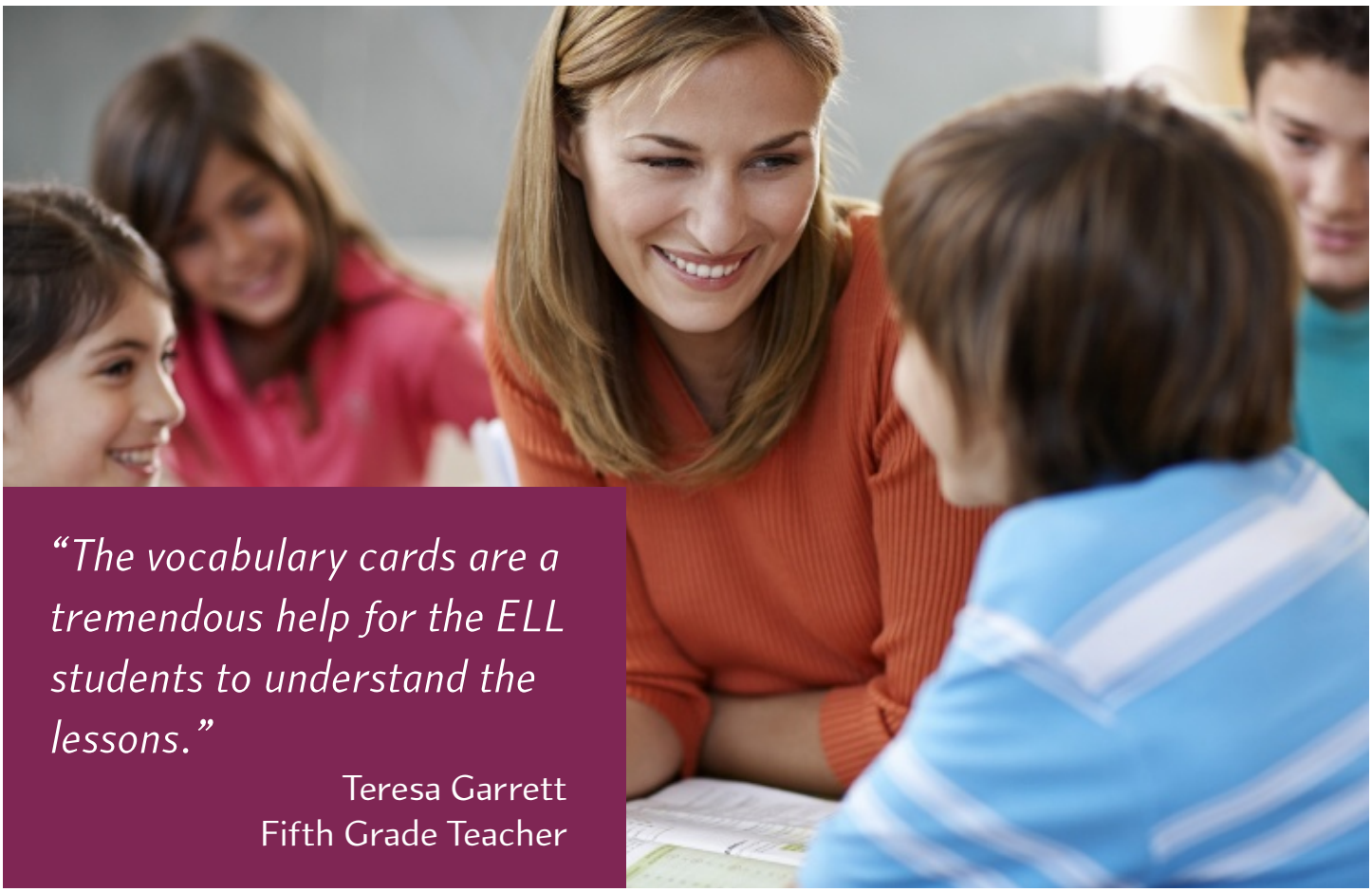


McGraw-Hill My Math: Game Changer for CCSSM

In the end, *McGraw-Hill My Math* has been a game changer, Garrett says. It is user-friendly for the teacher; provides school-to-home-support for parents; engages students with foldables, manipulatives, games, and video; provides teachers with video instruction examples; andprovides support for ELL students. Garrett also re-emphasizes the importance of *My Math's* perfect alignment with the Common Core.

"We went from something that the teachers didn't understand to something that everybodyunderstands," she says. "It is like a breath of fresh air. It is so aligned to the Common Core State Standards; it covers everything and we understand it. The alignment made it feel familiar, even though it was new."



"The vocabulary cards are a tremendous help for the ELL students to understand the lessons."

Teresa Garrett
Fifth Grade Teacher

SUCCESS STORY

Enhances Results & DI in Janesville, Wisconsin

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Name

School District of Janesville

Location

Janesville, Wisconsin

Enrollment

10,400

First Impression and Evidence

In Fall 2013, Janesville School District administered the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination and the Wisconsin Alternative Assessment for Students with Disabilities. As the 10th largest school district in Wisconsin serving more than 10,000 children in 19 schools, Janesville returned a proficient or advanced score for almost 60 percent of its elementary students who took the exam. This resulted in the district cumulatively scoring 7 percentage points above the state average in math.

As the first hard evidence Janesville's adoption of *McGraw-Hill My Math* was working, Amy Sheridan, Janesville's district math coordinator, is quick to point out the signs of success there from day one.

"When we looked at *McGraw-Hill My Math*, it looked liked it would meet all of our needs," said Sheridan.

McGraw-Hill My Math

Differentiated Instruction and ELL Support within *My Math*

Since *McGraw-Hill My Math* is built around the Common Core and focuses on the standards of mathematical practice, Janesville students – at all learning levels - are provided with multiple experiences to build conceptual understanding, reasoning, and real-world, problem-solving skills.

"The number 1 reason why we moved to *McGraw-Hill My Math* was because it affords differentiation," Sheridan said.

Sheridan remarks how, using *McGraw-Hill My Math*, makes it easier for Janesville teachers to assign students appropriate problems based on their individual levels of proficiency and build the conceptual understanding needed to apply their knowledge to real-world applications.

Differentiation has also become integral in Janesville in teaching English Language Learners (ELL). With the district seeing a growth in the ELL population, especially Spanish-speakers, *McGraw-Hill My Math* has become a staple resource for teachers with ELL students.

Sheridan recalls hearing from the ELL teachers that they "are absolutely loving the Spanish language resources."

Flexible and Invaluable Support

ELL teachers are not the only ones who benefit from the added resources of McGraw-Hill My Math; Sheridan notes that all the teachers have found the flexibility and integration of professional support invaluable.

"McGraw-Hill Education's professional development has been amazing," she says. "You make a phone call and the McGraw-Hill Education trainer is ready and available to support our teachers. McGraw-Hill Education provides us with what we need, whether it's one-on-one help, group training, online video tutorials or instruction in the computer lab."

When asked which *McGraw-Hill My Math* features have been best for the classroom, Sheridan highlights the effectiveness of the built-in Mathematical Practices. "Having these integrated into the content standards allows students to translate concepts into application and allows teachers to save time in building lesson plans," stated Sheridan.

Sharing a story from a veteran kindergarten teacher who has been in the classroom for 30 years, Sheridan recalled how the teacher praised *McGraw-Hill My Math* saying, "I have never had a group of students really understand the math and the concepts behind MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) as well as the students using this program."

Sheridan also underscores the effectiveness in engaging students while challenging them. She says features like the SMART board, vocabulary cards, games, videos and Foldables® gain students' attention. Students tell her "It's colorful. It's fun. Math is fun again!"

The 3 Components of Rigor in *McGraw-Hill My Math*

1. Conceptual Understanding
2. Procedural Skill and Fluency
3. Application

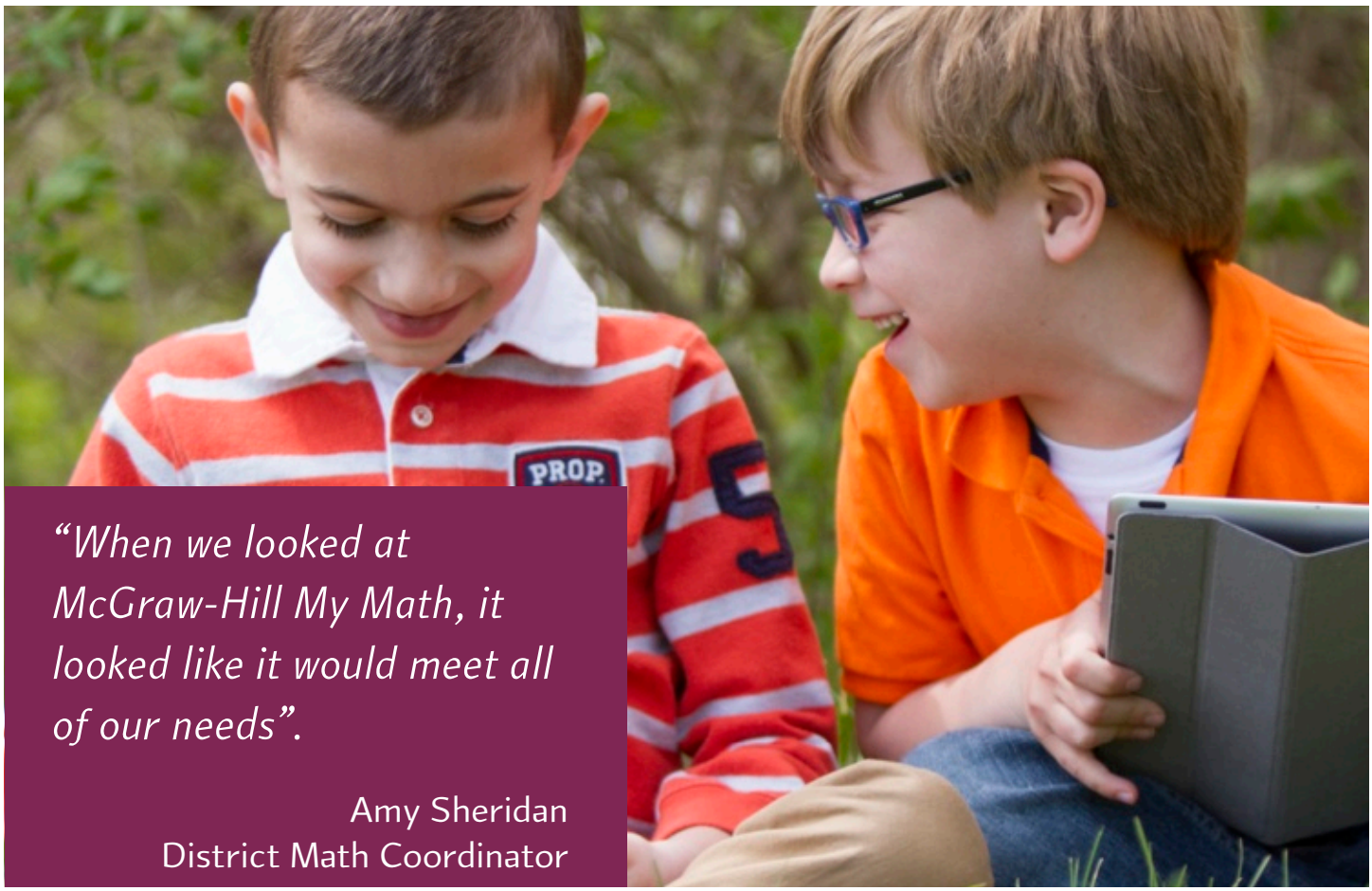
Woven throughout the program in equal intensity, the components of rigor allow students to progress toward a higher level of achievement.

Unbeatable Resource

Confident in their partnership with McGraw-Hill Education and hopeful for the future, Sheridan compliments *McGraw-Hill My Math* saying, "The program is continuously being updated and evolving. We value this in any curriculum we adopt. The amount of technology is great, and the fact that we have a resource that continues to grow with us is unbeatable."

For the School District of Janesville, *McGraw-Hill My Math* has proven to be just the curriculum it needed to align with the rigor outlined in the Common Core, differentiate instruction for all learners, and engage all students – which is paramount.

As the senior Janesville teacher puts it to Sheridan, "If we can get them engaged and understanding math at an early age like we are with McGraw-Hill My Math, they will be in good shape for lifelong learning."



"When we looked at McGraw-Hill My Math, it looked like it would meet all of our needs".

Amy Sheridan
District Math Coordinator

SUCCESS STORY

Rigor Plays Major Role in Minot Public Schools' Success

About the District

Name

Minot
Public Schools

Location

Minot,
North Dakota

Enrollment

7,500

Minot Public Schools

Prior to the adoption of McGraw-Hill My Math, less than 75% of Minot Public School students met the state's standards for adequate yearly progress in math.

Now, in its second year using McGraw-Hill My Math, positive results are showing for Minot.

Students who scored at the advanced or higher levels on the North Dakota math assessment increased their scores dramatically between 2011-12, the year before the adoption of McGraw-Hill My Math, and the 2013-14 school year.

Renae Rudolph, the math curriculum director for Minot, credits these gains, to what she calls "the greatest strength of McGraw-Hill My Math"- the rigor.

7%
Increase in Grade 3 scores after McGraw-Hill My Math Implementation

5%
Increase in Grade 4 scores after McGraw-Hill My Math Implementation

6%
Increase in Grade 5 scores after McGraw-Hill My Math Implementation

MINOT, ND STATE MATH ASSESSMENT SCORES

McGraw-Hill My Math

After reviewing *McGraw-Hill My Math*

Reviewing four series in depth for content aligning with the Common Core State Standards and the Standards for Mathematical Practice, Minot adopted *McGraw-Hill My Math* at the end of its last curriculum cycle. Renae says *McGraw-Hill My Math* came in first in every criteria examined, and chief among these was rigor.

"The program is built on the rigor of the Common Core, and that has been very valuable for us," Rudolph says. "We have found a resource that was built upon the standards every child needs to meet."

How *McGraw-Hill My Math* Works

At the beginning of each lesson, students using *McGraw-Hill My Math* investigate a concept in Investigate the Math. Students then have many opportunities to practice procedural skills throughout the lesson and tackle harder, higher-order thinking problems at the end of the lesson. This makes it easier for Minot teachers to differentiate and assign students appropriate problems based on their individual levels of proficiency.

McGraw-Hill My Math also teaches multiple problem-solving strategies, allowing students to model math and construct arguments that build the mathematical practices into "habits of mind," resulting in strong conceptual understanding.

McGraw-Hill My Math provides teachers the ability to bring more focus to certain concepts, such as fractions, which Rudolph surmises through exposure to *McGraw-Hill My Math* has led to better student understanding of fractions.

Teacher Tools in *McGraw-Hill My Math*

When asked which *McGraw-Hill My Math* tools have been most effective in the classroom, Rudolph points to a number of things.

"Teachers really liked the Math Talk Component, the Problem of the Day and the Hands-On Math," Rudolph says. "The differentiation resources are very well laid out and easy to use. The pre-made assessment options are plentiful, with the added ability to enhance them or even create our own. Assessments are available in the form of readiness checks, pre-tests, progress checks, chapter tests and benchmark assessments covering multiple chapters."

Students and teachers in the lower grades also seem to like that *McGraw-Hill My Math* allows them to approach problem solving using multiple methods, says Rudolph.

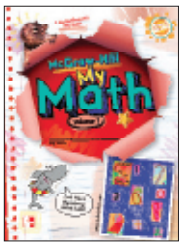
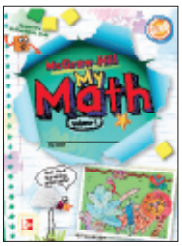
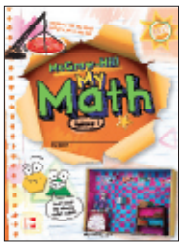
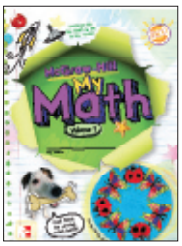
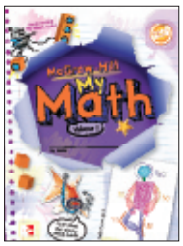
"We also like the performance tasks included with grades first through fifth," Rudolph says. "There are four per grade level, and they provide excellent practice for the performance task that will be included in the new Common Core testing."

Anywhere, Anytime Access and ELL Support

Parents like the online access to the textbook so they can view it whenever they like, she adds. Other school-to-home connections include Math at Home letters, Math at Home games and anytime access to the Student Center, which houses homework assignments, lesson animations, personal tutors, and digital games. eHelp is available for further explanations of concepts.

While the district today has few English language learners, North Dakota's economic boom is contributing to Minot's population growth, which could bring unpredictable changes to the student population. Rudolph says "*McGraw-Hill My Math* is a great resource for ELL students," adding that "We were overwhelmed with the amount of resources *McGraw-Hill My Math* provided. We feel the resources for differentiation and Spanish are there."

Rudolph says that since implementing *McGraw-Hill My*

Math, which requires students to think and reflect more on what they are learning, rigor in the classroom has increased and that "an increasing number of students are attaining their expected annual growth rate as measured by scores on the MAP test. Now, the district is working to sustain that growth and *McGraw-Hill My Math* will be a big part of that."

McGraw-Hill My Math should also help ease the transition for fifth-graders moving to sixth grade, where the district is in its second year using McGraw-Hill Glencoe Math, says Rudolph.

In the end, *McGraw-Hill My Math*'s rigor and alignment with Common Core, combined with differentiated instruction, adaptable online resources, professional development and multiple assessment tools are all helping to achieve results, inspire engagement, and lifelong learning for students in the Minot Public Schools.

"Now, the district is working to sustain that growth and McGraw-Hill My Math will be a big part of that."

Renae Rudolph
Math Cirriculum Director