

# Everyday Mathematics® Success Stories



## Florida District's Math Scores Steadily Improve with Everyday Mathematics

The Orange County Public School District is the fourth largest school district in Florida and the eleventh largest in the nation, employing more than 13,000 teachers in 170 schools. Orange County Public Schools serve a diverse student body of more than 170,000 students in Grades PreK–12 who speak 132 different languages and hail from 179 countries. The student population is 35% Caucasian, 31% Hispanic, 28% African American, 4% Asian, and 2% multicultural. Fifty-three percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, and 17% are classified as English learners.

Today roughly 96% of the district's elementary schools use *Everyday Mathematics* in Grades K–5. Many first implemented the program in the fall of 2004, and improvement was immediate. During the first year, the percentage of students scoring at or above Level 3 in mathematics on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in both Grade 3 and Grade 5 jumped seven percentage points. By 2009, an all-time high of 73% of Grade 3 students scored at this level – up from 59% in 2004, before the program began.

### Award-Winning District

The Orange County Public School District received the *Everyday Mathematics Outstanding Achievement Award* in 2008 for making exemplary progress in elementary math education. Between 2004 and 2009, the combined percentage of students in Grades 3 through 5 scoring Level 3 or above on the FCAT reading test increased by 13 percentage points.

Gayle Sitter, mathematics specialist for the district, said once teachers began using *Everyday Mathematics*, they saw immediate improvement. “We made believers out of a lot of people when our 2005 FCAT scores came out,” she explained. “The improvement after just one year with the program was phenomenal.”

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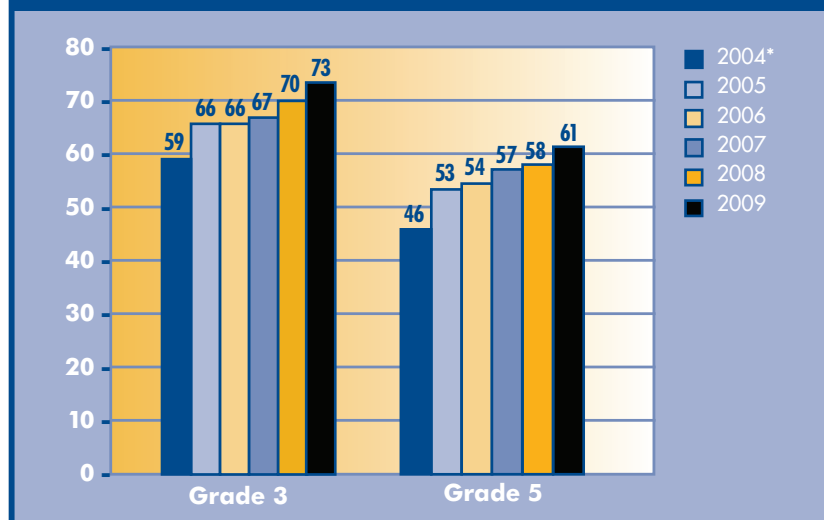
*Gale Sitter*

*Mathematics Specialist*

Kelly Pelletier, former principal of Union Park Elementary School, said she and her colleagues quickly noticed students were better able to solve problems and think critically once *Everyday Mathematics* was in place. “This program teaches conceptual thinking. It lays the groundwork and really builds solid concept development so students truly understand the properties of numbers. The content

### Percentage of Orange County Students Scoring Level 3 or Above

Source: FCAT



\* The year before *Everyday Mathematics* was implemented.

spirals from one grade level to the next, providing a constant review so kids understand those underlying concepts. This really makes a huge difference when they get to the upper grades.”

### Ongoing Professional Development

To ensure a smooth transition to **Everyday Mathematics**, district officials provided professional training for more than 2,600 teachers during the summer of 2004. Today they continue to offer training sessions to paraprofessionals, frequently used substitutes, administrators, after-school educators, and resource teachers. Educators learn how to get the most out of the program: **Everyday Mathematics** teaches them how to encourage inquiry and involve students in problem solving. “Math is not always the most comfortable subject for elementary school teachers, especially new ones,” Pelletier said. “When I visit classrooms, I don’t see teachers

standing at the front of the room lecturing students, followed by pages and pages of worksheets. Instead, our teachers have fully engaged their students, who are now interactive and inquisitive. The kids are functioning at higher levels, and I’m often amazed at the thinking they come up with and the way they describe their solutions to a problem.”

Terri Varn, another district mathematics specialist, said the games within **Everyday Mathematics** are a big hit with both students and teachers. “The games are an awesome way to reinforce concepts in a fun way,” she explained. “Students look forward to them, but what they don’t realize is they’re actually developing math vocabulary. They’re also developing relationships with other children in the class they may not have seen on a ‘math’ level. The games are a wonderful reinforcement of what the teacher has done and what has been going on in the classroom.”

Pelletier said her students love a game called multiplication baseball. “Practicing math doesn’t have to mean regurgitating information on a worksheet,” she explained. “When the kids see the blowup multiplication facts, they get so excited to play baseball. We love **Everyday Math** because we know that it’s really making a difference for the kids.”

For additional information on the **Everyday Mathematics** program, please contact us toll-free at 1-800-648-2970 and visit our Web site at [everydaymath.com](http://everydaymath.com).

Expect More. Achieve More.