

# EverydayMathematics® Success Stories



## Lapwai Students Excel in Mathematics

The town of Lapwai, Idaho and the surrounding area are home to the Nez Perce Indian Reservation in the north central panhandle of the state, approximately 10 miles from Lewiston. The Lapwai School District #341 serves a total of 560 students in Grades PK–12. The majority of the elementary school population is Native American (83%) and approximately 80% of students qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

The students at Lapwai Elementary School are excited about math and look forward to math lessons that are taught several times each day. Students are involved and invested in their mathematics learning. Students set ambitious goals for themselves on high-stakes tests such as the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Direct Math Assessment (DMA). Because of the students' high expectations and family support, all students are achieving in mathematics at Lapwai Elementary: 100% of Grade 4 students demonstrated proficiency in mathematics on the 2005 ISAT exam.

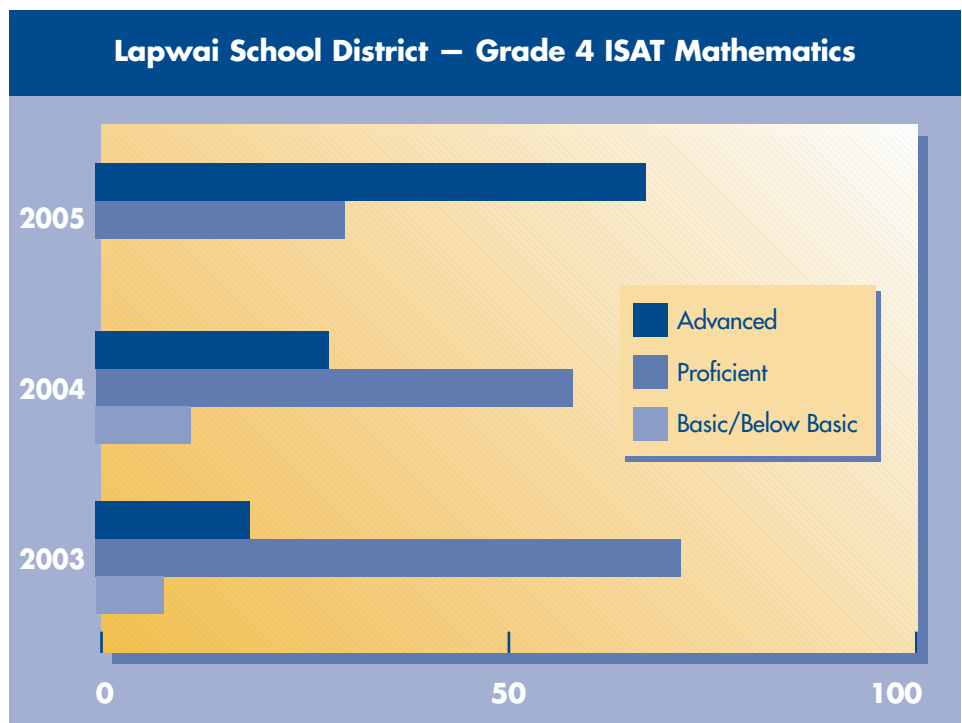
At Lapwai Elementary, the students are proud of their heritage and the mathematicians that they have become.

### Recent Past

Not too long ago, from 15% to 30% of students at Lapwai Elementary were scoring at levels indicating proficiency on state mathematics tests. Not satisfied

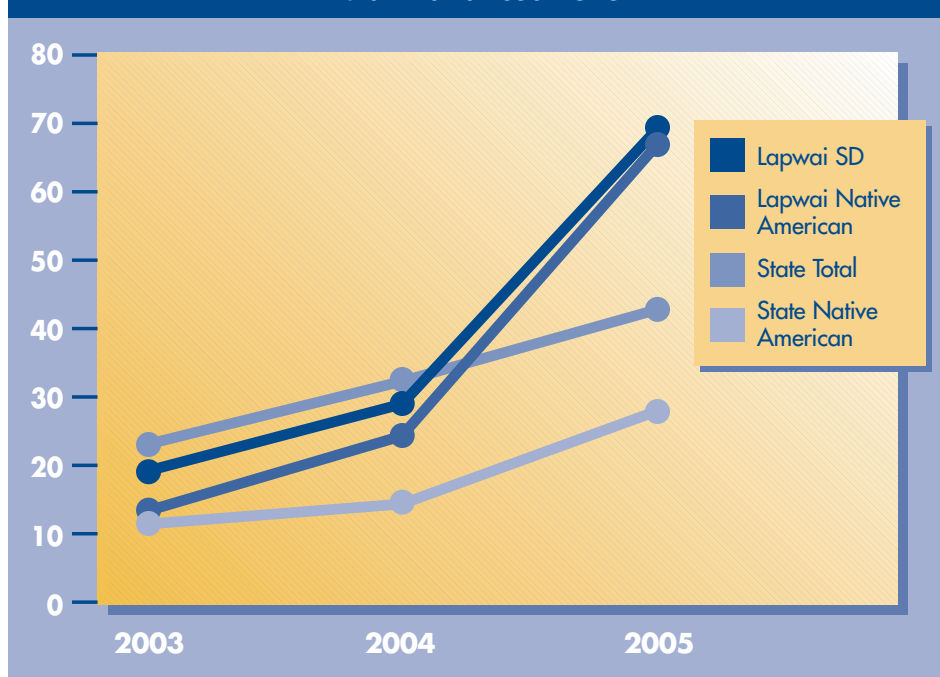
with these outcomes, teachers and administrators at Lapwai began investigating other approaches to mathematics instruction. On a visit to schools in Lewiston, Idaho, the group from Lapwai encountered *Everyday Mathematics* in use. Thanks to the funding from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, *Everyday Mathematics* was adopted by the Lapwai School District in fall 2001.

*Everyday Mathematics* provides teachers the opportunity to go above and beyond their grade-level Idaho state mathematics standards,” notes Carleen Baldwin, a teacher in Grade 4 at Lapwai Elementary. “At Grade 4, *Everyday Mathematics* addresses content that appears in fourth through eighth grade Idaho mathematics standards. Fourth grade students are so proud and motivated when they are learning algebra and geometry like their siblings in upper grades.”



In 2005, 100% of Lapwai students in Grade 4 scored in the Advanced and Proficient ranges on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test in mathematics.

## Lapwai School District – Grade 4 ISAT Mathematics % at Advanced Level



In 2005, the share of Native American students at Lapwai Elementary who scored at the Advanced level (67%) outpaced the share of the state total at the Advanced level (43%).

Baldwin states that her students are so enthusiastic to learn about math that they challenge themselves by setting personal goals that are above the proficient level. Students understand that to become better mathematicians, they need to challenge themselves. **Everyday Mathematics** challenges students in many ways. Students soon discover that there is more than one way to get the correct answer. Baldwin sees students using and modeling HOT (higher-order thinking) versus LOT (lower-order thinking) when using **Everyday Mathematics**.

Another fourth grade teacher at Lapwai Elementary, Jenni Snyder reports that **Everyday Mathematics** has changed her student's attitudes towards math,

as well as her own. "My students love math! They look forward to math, and I touch on math several times during the day, beginning with the Math Message each morning."

Both Baldwin and Snyder concur, "We think the reason why the students have taken so well to the **Everyday Mathematics** program is that the program suits the needs of all learners. Children today are both kinesthetic and visual learners, and **Everyday Mathematics** provides real world application of mathematics and expands math outside of the classroom. For all children today, it is important for them to know how they will use the math that they are learning in the real world."

## Results

The ISAT, a criterion-referenced test, was first administered during the 2002-2003 school year. Trend data on the ISAT exists at Grade 4 for elementary mathematics.

Student performance on the mathematics ISAT at Grade 4 has dramatically increased over the last few years. In 2005, 100% of all Lapwai students scored in the Advanced and Proficient ranges on the mathematics ISAT. Furthermore, approximately 70% of Lapwai students scored at the Advanced level in 2005, compared to 19% at this level in 2003.

One of the key provisions of the No Child Left Behind act is the requirement to disaggregate testing results for subgroups within the student population. The performance in mathematics by Native American children in Lapwai far exceeds the overall state performance of Native American children. Native American students at Lapwai also outperform the state total at the Advanced level for all students.

## Teacher Buy-In

According to Principal Teri Wagner, teachers at Lapwai Elementary have come to embrace **Everyday Mathematics** because their students find the program exciting and the students' enthusiasm for mathematics is so evident. The vigorous spirit of learning, as well as the dramatic increase in ISAT test scores, shows that **Everyday Mathematics** is working in the Lapwai School District.

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



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