

EverydayMathematics® Success Stories



Kentucky Students In Daviess County Double Math Scores with Everyday Mathematics®

Daviess County is located in the western portion of Kentucky along the southern banks of the Ohio River, about 30 miles southeast of Evansville, Indiana. The major city in the county is Owensboro, which is the third largest city in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Daviess County Public Schools operate 18 schools and serve roughly 10,840 students in Grades Pre-K–12. The student population is 89% Caucasian, 5% multicultural, 3% African American, 1% Asian, 1% Hispanic, and 1% Native American. More than 50% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

Daviess County is home to two 2008 Blue Ribbon schools. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program is offered by the U.S. Department of Education to honor schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Students in both Blue Ribbon schools improved their mathematics scores on the state's standardized test by 55% in just one year after Wright Group/McGraw-Hill's *Everyday Mathematics*® was implemented in Grades K–5.

Both Sorgho Elementary School and Whitesville Elementary School adopted the program in fall 2004. The percentage of Sorgho students scoring Proficient or Distinguished on the math portion of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) jumped from 39% in 2003 to 87% in 2004. The percentage of Whitesville students jumped from 33% in 2003 to 73% in 2004.

More Than One Way to Solve a Math Problem

Beverly Dawson, principal at Sorgho Elementary School, said *Everyday Mathematics* is used in approximately half the elementary schools district-wide, and the program, coupled with dedicated teachers, has made a significant difference for her students.

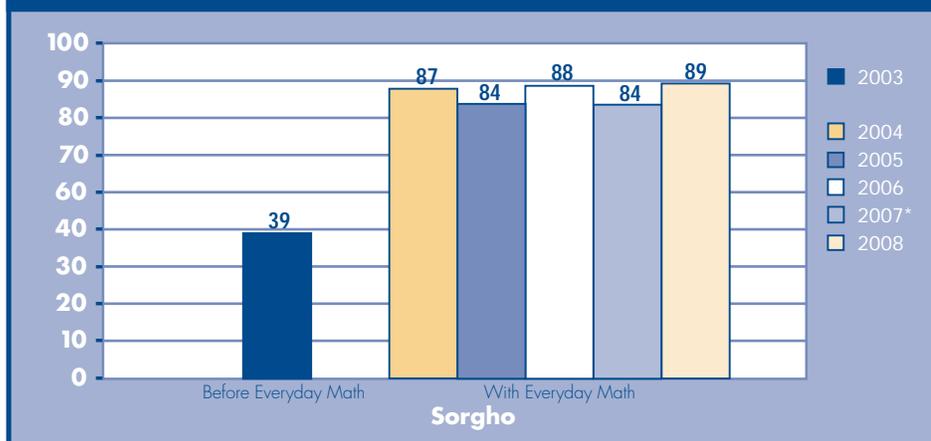
“Everyday Mathematics is a research-based curriculum focusing on critical thinking, which means the program teaches students to look at mathematical problems in different ways,” she explained. “They know there’s more than one way to solve a problem.”

Dawson said *Everyday Mathematics* also gives students a basic understanding of how numbers work.

“This gives them a good foundation that they’ll use the rest of their academic careers. We’ve watched our students who had experienced the program since

Percentage of Sorgho Students in Grades 3-5 Scoring Proficient or Distinguished in Mathematics

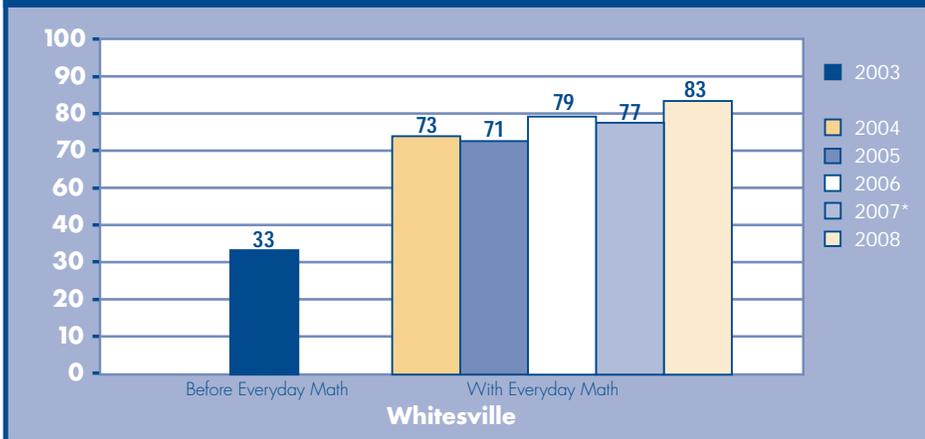
Source: CATS



* A new CATS was administered in 2007; therefore, it's difficult to compare subsequent scores to those before 2007.

Percentage of Whitesville Students in Grades 3-5 Scoring Proficient or Distinguished in Mathematics

Source: CATS



* A new CATS was administered in 2007; therefore, it's difficult to compare subsequent scores to those before 2007.

Kindergarten excel in math once they reached the upper grades. That wasn't the case before the program began," Dawson explained.

"Everyday Mathematics is a research-based curriculum focusing on critical thinking, which means the program teaches students to look at mathematical problems in different ways."

*Beverly Dawson
Sorgho Elementary School Principal*

Laura Cecil, the school's staff developer and gifted education coordinator, said students aren't afraid to attack math problems now because they know multiple strategies.

"This program offers various perspectives to approaching math and mathematical thinking. It doesn't force students to rely on one strategy to find a solution. When we challenge them with extremely hard high-level math problems, like those used in middle school, we notice they are determined to solve them. That's because they take the time to use every solution they know to work it through," Cecil said.

Program Provides Consistency in Language Across Grade Levels

Teachers at Whitesville Elementary School, which also received a Blue Ribbon in 2008, have watched students' math scores increase as well.

"The primary reason that several schools across the district have experienced score increases is because teachers have committed to teaching *Everyday Math* with fidelity to assure students' ongoing achievement."

*Beverly Dawson
Sorgho Elementary School Principal*

Before *Everyday Mathematics* was implemented in Grades K-5 in fall 2004, teachers in different grade levels used different math programs. Only 33% of students in Grades 3-5 scored Proficient or Distinguished in math on CATS in 2003. Once all teachers began using *Everyday Mathematics* and were consistent with the language they used to teach the program, scores began to rise. In just one year, 73% of students scored Proficient or Distinguished in math.

"The primary reason that several schools across the district have experienced score increases is because teachers have committed to teaching *Everyday Math* with fidelity to assure students' ongoing achievement," Dawson concluded.

For additional information on the *Everyday Mathematics* program, please contact us toll-free at 1-800-648-2970 and visit WrightGroup.com.

Expect More. Achieve More.