

Amplify Fractions

Students love to use and learn from Amplify Fractions

A case study

Double Churches Elementary School is a school for grades K-5 in Muscogee County, GA

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– **Rebecca Gilbreath-Levan**

Fourth-grade teacher Rebecca Gilbreath-Levan was looking for a way to help her students improve their foundational fractions skills, which students need in order to move onto the more complex fractions concepts that come later in the school year.

She says: "4th grade is a hard year. Students move from the math basics to more conceptual material. With fractions in particular, it's really hard for them to understand what a fraction is and what it means."

Ms. Gilbreath-Levan began using Amplify Fractions with her 21 students during the fall of 2017. Amplify Fractions is an adaptive math program offering a new approach to learning fractions that blends interactive storytelling and adaptive learning. Her students worked independently with Amplify Fractions for one hour per week during scheduled computer lab time. Students started with the first lesson in the program and worked at their own pace, focusing on reviewing 3rd-grade concepts. Students completed both interactive lessons and practice sets for each fractions skill.

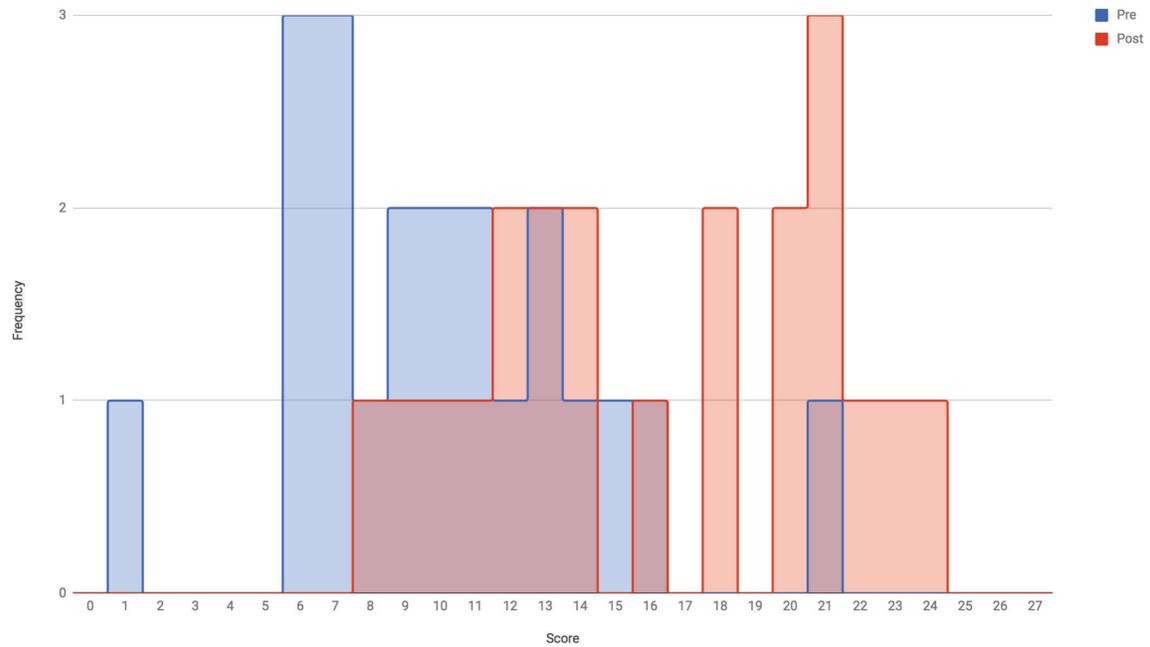
Ms. Gilbreath-Levan believes that Amplify Fractions made her students better equipped to handle fractions and more confident with fractions in general.

She particularly liked the way Amplify Fractions uses quirky, humorous stories to engage students in learning without their realizing it. She stressed how especially important it is to excite students when they are learning a challenging concept like fractions.

"Fractions are one of the most difficult concepts for students. With Amplify Fractions, I found a program that actually excites my students to want to learn and practice fractions. Students remembered the characters and stories in the program, which is a great thing to fall back on to remember the concept," she says.

And the quantitative metrics back up Ms. Gilbreath-Levan's excitement. On pre- and post-assessments, all but one student showed a score increase, with an average improvement of 23 percentage points.

Double Churches Elementary School (Columbus, GA)



Histogram showing class performance on the pre-test (blue) and post-test (red) in Double Churches Elementary School. Both assessments had 27 total questions.

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Student feedback on Amplify Fractions is overwhelmingly positive

"Amplify Fractions is an enjoyable experience for students that sneaks in the learning. My students cheered when they were told they would be working on the program."

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In a survey given to students after they used the program, 95% of respondents had a positive overall impression of the program and felt they learned more about fractions.

More importantly, Amplify Fractions helped students feel more knowledgeable and confident about fractions.

Another 4th-grade teacher in the same school whose students tried Amplify Fractions shared the best possible result. "I have this one boy in my class who has a lot of trouble with math. He struggles a lot, so much that his motivation is often diminished," she says. But after working with Amplify Fractions, she says: "He told me: I love it, but make it longer."

Ms. Gilbreath-Levan concludes: "Amplify Fractions is an enjoyable experience for students that sneaks in the learning. My students cheered when they were told they would be working on the program."

And what do students think:

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