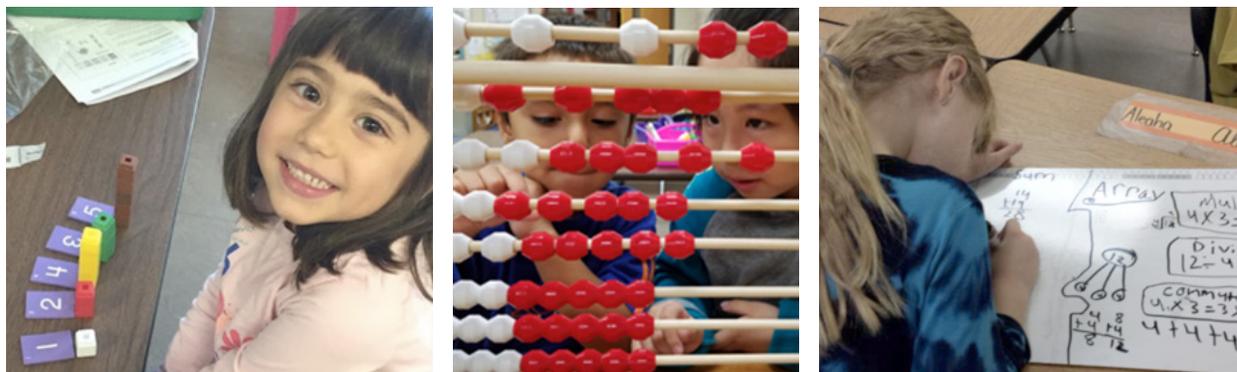


Success with *Eureka Math* in Menomonie, WI



The School District of the Menomonie Area (SDMA) has witnessed the positive impact *Eureka Math* can have on students' education. Particularly astounding is the success of *River Heights Elementary School*, the district's highest-poverty elementary school, which has been using *Eureka Math* since 2014–2015. To learn more about this success, we spoke with Instructional Math Coach Michelle Dupree and Director of Instruction Brian Seguin. Excerpts from our conversation follow.

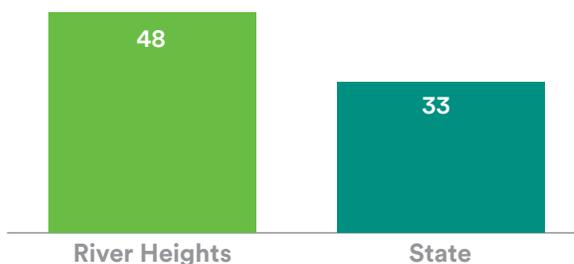
HOW HAS IMPLEMENTING *EUREKA MATH* AFFECTED MENOMONIE STUDENTS?

Brian: In general, making the shift to *Eureka* is benefiting all students in the district, not only one subgroup or another. Many resources we've used in the past have benefited your typical student, but resulted in differences in growth among demographic subgroups. What we're seeing now is that students are able to do more things at a higher level regardless of their subgroup. That's not to say we're not seeing gaps present within some of our subgroups, but we're seeing those gaps close.

One school in the district really stood out for its success. Students at *River Heights*, our highest-poverty school, outperformed other schools around the state in terms of growth by 15 points in math this past year (2015–16) on our state assessment. Students at each of the tested grades (3rd, 4th, 5th) showed more growth than their peers, and the school is closing achievement gaps faster than schools across the state.

SDMA serves 3,300 students and is located in the western part of Wisconsin. Some of the district's elementary teachers started using the curriculum in the 2014–15 year, and the entire district adopted it for grades K–5 at the start of the 2015–16 school year.

River Heights' Student Growth Score*
(On a scale of 0 to 50)



*Wisconsin's Student Growth Score measures the change in student knowledge in mathematics from year to year, which in this case was school year 2014–15 to 2015–16. It uses a Value Added Score, which measures how a particular school's students perform compared to similar students in the state. This metric measures the difference between actual growth of students' knowledge and the predicted growth, based on students with similar prior academic achievement and controlling for external factors such as demographics

HOW DOES EUREKA MATH COMPARE WITH OTHER MATH CURRICULA YOU HAVE USED?

Michelle: *Eureka Math* places an emphasis on conceptual understanding and taking students to a deeper level. Differentiation is embedded in Eureka, not found in a separate book or box. This is a shift from our previous resources. Early in our adoption, I'd hear from teachers, "What do I use to differentiate my instruction?" These practices are embedded in Eureka lessons. Teachers soon recognized that the various models, strategies, and pathways for students to explain their thinking allowed all students to succeed as learners. Eureka lends itself to multiple-entry, low-floor, and high-ceiling tasks. Some students are able to demonstrate and explain their understanding in one or two ways, while others share and explain multiple strategies. The more ways a student can explain their thinking, the deeper their understanding.



HOW DID TEACHERS INITIALLY RESPOND TO THE SHIFT TO EUREKA?

Michelle: The first few months of adoption were a struggle. As the trailblazers, our initial implementation team began the work (in 2014–15) of building knowledge about the curriculum for the district. From the start, they were putting in a lot of work and not seeing the payoff. There were frustrations and teachers found it difficult to “buy in”. About three months into the same school year, in November, we turned a corner. This is when I began hearing things like, “In 20 years of teaching, I have never seen kindergarteners do what they’re doing in math.” Students began to make connections to math in their everyday lives. A first-grade student said to his mother, “Mom I can’t wait until May 11th.” His mother couldn’t make sense of why that date was important, so she asked him. He responded, “Five, eleven, sixteen, $5 + 11 = 16!$ ”

The [Eureka Math Facebook pages](#) are goldmines. Educators from all over the country can post questions, share resources, and communicate with a Eureka writer from their own grade level.

HOW ARE PARENTS RESPONDING TO THE CURRICULUM?

Michelle: At first, parents had questions and concerns. This resource is just so different from the way they/we learned math, shifting from a focus on procedure and memorization to deep conceptual understanding.

In order to support our families, we host a Eureka Math Parent Academy each year. These nights are designed to take parents through math activities as they play the role of their child. Parents are encouraged to ask questions regarding some of the unfamiliar terms and models in Eureka. For example, they had not heard of a “tape diagram” or “number bond.” Our survey results have indicated that parents left the evening with a better understanding of what we are doing in math and why. Additionally, we send home parent newsletters that introduce the models, vocabulary, and content in the upcoming module. Teachers also send home the Eureka Homework Helpers, so that parents are able to support their child(ren) with homework.

Rather than focusing on preparing children for the world of today, we’re helping parents and teachers shift their focus to how we can best educate our children for the world of tomorrow.