

Salem School District students who used DreamBox Math regularly significantly improved MAP scores

Salem School District, Salem, Wisconsin

At the Salem 4K–8 school, students know Craig Velleux as Mr. DreamBox. His official title was math interventionist/math coach/algebra teacher, and he is now the data specialist. Last year, a new administrator brought DreamBox Math into the curriculum, so Velleux learned how to make the program work for his district. One of his main responsibilities in the 2022-23 school year was to get DreamBox Math up and running and engage students and teachers.

Building strong student usage

“Our 4K, kindergarten and 1st-graders all have iPads and from 2nd grade up, we have Chrome books for all the kids,” says Velleux, explaining that the school population is socioeconomically diverse. “So, we make sure they have the devices and anybody at home that doesn’t have a device, we loan them one.” With these devices, students can work on DreamBox Math lessons anywhere and anytime. All students, K–8 must complete five lessons a week. Those who complete more have seen more improvement.

As data specialist, Velleux built assessments into a data analytics platform called Otus to track students’ skill level. The platform offers a question-by-question and standard-by-standard breakdown for every student in a class. The analytics show where students are missing standards mastery or where students scored low. Then, the teachers go into DreamBox and assign lessons based on each student’s specific needs.

“So, the teachers actually really like it because they don’t necessarily have to reteach and lose class time of math,” says Velleux. “They can use DreamBox to supplement the skills that [students] need.” For example, DreamBox supports students’ math fact fluency. Teacher buy-in



made getting DreamBox into the classroom easy. Some students need more intensive intervention in small-group or one-on-one settings, so they don’t fulfill the recommended number of weekly lessons. Regardless, the kids love DreamBox. But for different reasons than the teachers. Number one: DreamBox is fun with its gaming style lessons that pique youngsters minds. Number two: Competition and recognition help engage students.

The school ignited students’ interest with a friendly math challenge in May 2022. The names of students who did 10 lessons a week were put on a banner in the halls. In addition to recognition, students got prizes, certificates, DreamBox stickers, pens and pencils, water bottles, and T-shirts. If an entire class met the challenge, 10 lessons, Velleux put up big ribbon on the wall and went into their room and made a big deal out of it, handing out small backpacks and math key tags. Engagement was “crazy good,” according to Velleux.

Exciting MAP and state assessment results

“MAP testing scores were some of the best we’ve had overall,” says Velleux. Similarly, students who used DreamBox regularly saw improved state testing (Wisconsin Forward) scores, especially their third-grade students. “Our third grade outperformed pretty much the rest of our building as far as number of proficient [and] advanced students. And they had the highest [DreamBox] usage, and they had the most kids that met the challenge.” Velleux is certain they’ll host another big, building wide DreamBox challenge in the 2023-24 school year. It’ll be in March 2024 before spring testing begins.

Because DreamBox has caught on with teachers and students, usage is up quite a bit after only one year. “For me, on the administrator side of DreamBox, I check the student usage report right now, just to make sure people are in there,” says Velleux. “I’m excited to see how DreamBox growth is going to look as the year goes on.”

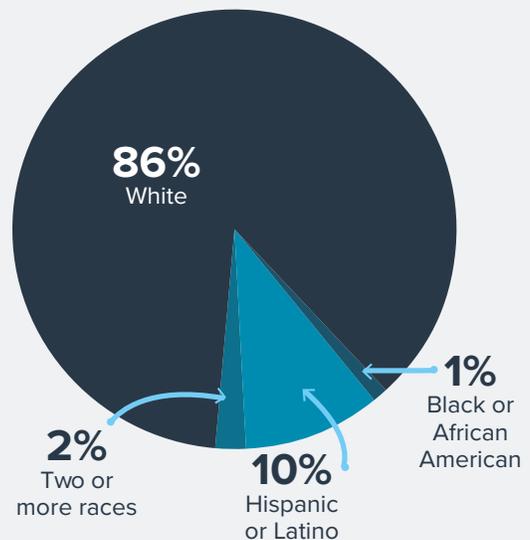
With teacher buy-in and student engagement being so high, Velleux has great expectations for expanding DreamBox student usage.



Salem School District:

Total schools:	1
Total students:	Approx. 1,000
Classroom Teachers:	Approx. 69

Student Demographics:



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