



Celebrating Success!

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## Marietta City Schools Measuring and Reporting Student Learning with Classworks

Marietta City Schools  
Marietta, GA

Marietta City Schools have always been leaders in the use of technology. The district has used integrated, managed software in their schools since 1989. Teachers find it valuable in remediation or acceleration; students find it valuable in better test scores.

In 1999, district leaders realized that their old technology-based curriculum delivery system could no longer meet their needs for individualized instruction. The curriculum was lacking interactivity and could not engage students in the task at hand. Marietta clearly needed a new system to deliver curriculum and a new, up-to-date hardware infrastructure on which to operate it.

Administrators and teachers began a long and arduous process of determining the best solution to meet their increasing needs for a comprehensive solution. "First, to ensure the program would be embraced in the classroom, we set up a detailed review and selection process and selected a cross-section of teachers to be on a task force," said Dr. Penny Angel, director of educational technology for Marietta City Schools. "We then invited six different companies to show us their technology-based curriculum. Among those we reviewed, Curriculum Advantage's *Classworks* could provide the only solution that met all of our needs for an effective district-wide electronic delivery of curriculum."

*Classworks* met two primary goals for Marietta. First, the curriculum suited all the district's students regardless of learning style, technology skills or grade level. Second, the system had to be affordable and meet the district's budget constraints. *Classworks* also meet these key requirements:

- Provides accountability and reporting features on student activities to ensure student mastery of specific objectives
- Is an engaging curriculum that keeps student interest while having comprehensive depth and breadth at each grade level
- Offers multiple activities with various approaches to the same concept to address all student learning styles
- Provides remediation activities built into each unit
- Includes standards-based extension activities allowing students to demonstrate skills mastery

That Marietta City Schools sought to provide its students with the best curriculum solution possible and invested in a robust technology infrastructure is notable; the district has a high percentage of families living in poverty and large numbers of minority and special education students. Yet, students have wide access to technology, both in the classroom and in computer labs. The schools average over 100 computers per campus, including at least one lab and an average of four to five computers per classroom. Each student receives at least one hour a week of *Classworks* instruction in addition to lab and other instruction time with computers.

Once *Classworks* was selected, a customized implementation ensured a smooth transition to the new system. *Classworks* trainers and the implementation team had years of experience in education and understood that schools have unique needs and challenges. The implementation team created a customized School Implementation Plan to deal specifically with Marietta's needs while clearly stating goals and objectives. Constant checkpoints provided accountability and kept the deployment process on track.

Professional development using the Train-the-Trainer and Peer Coaching models were important parts of the implementation process and fostered strong buy-in from stakeholders. Organizational tools were put in place to ensure that each student would spend the proper amount of time on *Classworks* to be successful.

When the system had been fully implemented, *Classworks* Interactive Support (CIS) gave teachers an on-line training resource to complement the on-site professional development activities. Marietta School District staff were then able to access Interactive Support from any Internet accessible computer, giving them true “anytime anywhere” access.

Overall, the successful deployment of *Classworks* was the result of a well-thought plan and diligent attention to details by the district staff and *Classworks* implementation team. All stakeholders from the students to administrators felt positive benefit from the system. Among those benefits, teachers found that they could use *Classworks* to efficiently identify student areas of need with the Pre-Test and that they could easily manipulate units of instruction and boost student test scores. Teachers also appreciated that the real-world lesson applications extended and enriched learning, making math and reading instruction more relevant for their students. Administrators appreciated seeing positive changes in teacher practices throughout the adoption process and increased accountability for student progress and growth.

Debbie Pickett, former principal at Park Street Elementary School, was one proponent of a robust curriculum like *Classworks*. “I pushed for a stronger commitment to technology-based curriculum because I have seen successes in other schools and districts. 80% of Park Street’s students are on the free/reduced lunch program and 90% are listed as minorities so we had to diligently focus on every aspect of the educational process to reach minimum proficiencies. *Classworks* was a tremendous help to us and a big reason that Park Street Elementary School stayed off of the Needs Improvement list for the past 3 years.”

The potential to help student learning and help the district’s bottom line was also evident. “*Classworks* played a key role in helping us meet the rigorous requirements of No Child Left Behind,” said Debbie. “We have been so pleased with the *Classworks* program that we applied for and received Title II Part D competitive funding that is being used to correlate *Classworks* with the core curriculum and align it with the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) and CRCT (Criterion-Referenced Competency Test) skills.”

Curriculum Advantage is planning a fall release that will further enhance the program’s effectiveness in Georgia. The Georgia edition of *Classworks* will be aligned with QCC thus allowing the teacher to assign curriculum to an individual or group of students based on the state standards. Additionally, the *Classworks* GA edition will include a diagnostic and prescriptive tool that imports the CRCT data from the previous year and automatically creates a learning path for each student based on their identified areas of need. “

Our students are engaged and they love using *Classworks*,” said Peter Floistad, Burruss Elementary School teacher. “*Classworks* is highly interactive and provides the exact forum our students needed to boost their performance on the CRCT and enjoy the process.”

Ultimately for Marietta City Schools, which invested so much time and resources to finding the perfect technologybased curriculum solution, the effort paid off. “We can reach every one of our students,” said Carra Harris, technical assistant for Marietta City Schools. “We can remediate and reteach where necessary and pull out the reports we need to manage effectively. No one gets left behind in our district.

*To learn more about how Classworks can help your students, please visit [www.curriculumadvantage.com](http://www.curriculumadvantage.com) or call 1-888-841-4790.*