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ALearn's summer middle school MAP Program has proved effective in raising not only students' math skills, but also their attitude and study skills. ”

- Jose Manzo, Superintendent
Oak Grove School District

MAP (Math Acceleration Program)

The Challenge

Too many students are leaving school unprepared for the demands of the 21st Century, and students from underrepresented backgrounds are the most impacted. California has an increasing number of students from low-income backgrounds and students underperforming in math. For example, only 24% of Santa Clara and San Mateo County Latino and 21% of African American students are proficient in 8th grade Algebra (versus 58% of Caucasians).

Algebra II is nationally recognized as the best predictor of a student's likely success in college. Motivation and mindset are precursors of proficiency. Many students lose self confidence and academic interest in middle school. How do we re-engage students in higher levels of math?

The Solution

MAP is a rigorous, four- or five-week, 76-hour summer program for underserved incoming 5th - 8th graders focused on increasing Common Core Math proficiency, college readiness, and growth mindset. Participation in MAP enables the students to:

- **Enjoy a 1:15 instructor-student ratio.** Each class is staffed by a certified teacher and a college-going teaching assistant (TA). The TAs, from similar backgrounds as the students, motivate students and serve as positive role models.
- **Bridge Common Core Math proficiency.** Common Core Math Standards mandate that students be able to explain the “why” and “how” of each subject. MAP emphasizes a deep understanding of fundamental concepts through its interactive Common Core curriculum, offered through aligned modules that include hands-on activities and project-based learning.
- **Plan for high school and start thinking about college.** Students experience high school readiness and college awareness curriculum. All students participate in a college field trip and families join in a College Inspiration Program.
- **Expand use of technology.** Students use web-based exercises and videos from Khan Academy to reinforce math concepts. With a glance at their computers, teachers and TAs can see where students are struggling and tutor them in small groups.
- **Foster a “growth mindset.”** ALearn emphasizes Stanford Professor Dweck's “Mindset” approach to teaching and learning. It encourages individual perseverance and helps students develop a process-oriented approach to learning.
- **Engage with families.** To ensure continued academic success, ALearn emphasizes the importance of family engagement in every student's high school and college planning.