



Georgia students get a jump start on math at the beginning of the school year



Derek von Waldner working with students in his fourth-grade math and science class

Students gain 6 months in grade level in their first 2 months of school

Derek von Waldner, a fourth-grade math and science teacher at Screven County Elementary School in Georgia, has only been teaching for two years. But that hasn't stopped his students from achieving impressive results in Math. That's because von Waldner is using MobyMax for self-paced and differentiated learning, allowing for personalized instruction that spells success for every student.

As with most classrooms, students in von Waldner's class range from below to above grade level. That disparity poses a challenge for even the most experienced of teachers, let alone those who are relatively new. As von Waldner considered strategies that would benefit students at any level, he turned to MobyMax.



“For me to sit there with a student and get him up to grade level in nine weeks would take all of my time, whereas MobyMax is filling those gaps quickly.”

“I use MobyMax for differentiation,” he said. “That’s where MobyMax is really awesome—students who have different needs can learn at different levels, even though they’re in the same class together. One kid could be working on fifth grade math, and another could be working on second grade math.” von Waldner’s students all use Chromebooks during class. For part of the school day, they work through the MobyMax software individually while he

Tapping MobyMax to deliver highly targeted instruction has benefited all of von Waldner’s students—from his lowest to his highest achievers. In just the first nine weeks of school, on average, his fourth-grade math students achieved a 6 month grade-level increase, performing 3x higher than normal in math.



Students working at their own individual level

circulates among his students and offers help. “Some students are way above a fourth grade level, and they’re able to work at their own pace with relevant content,” he noted. “Meanwhile, I can go around to the other students and help remediate,” he said. The teacher also uses the data from MobyMax’s progress monitoring reports to group students by ability during small-group instruction.



Derek von Waldner giving help to one of his students

For the lowest students, MobyMax is “pulling them up to grade level,” he said. “For me to sit there with a student and get him up to grade level in nine weeks would take all of my time, whereas MobyMax is filling those gaps quickly.”

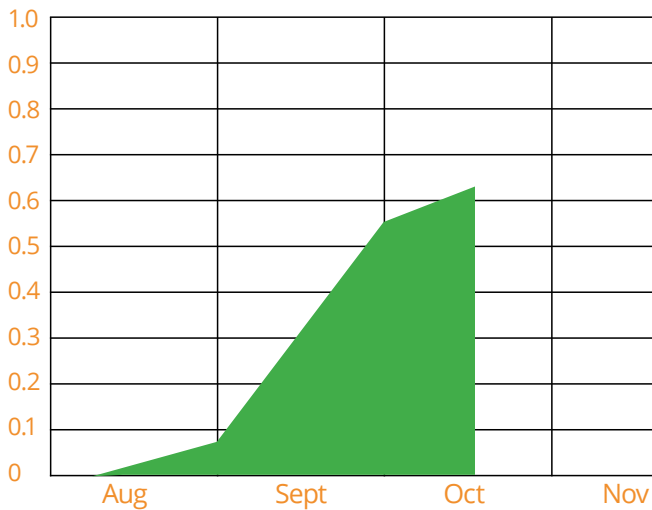


Student performing 3X higher in math

“When students can learn something themselves and then go on to teach other students that same content, in my opinion, that’s a success.”



Students learning together with MobyMax



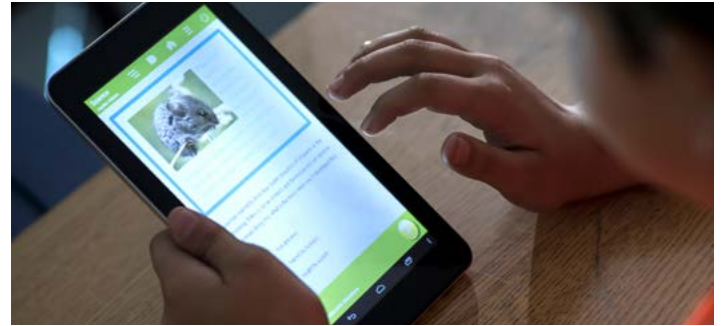
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One student who began the year at a 3.1 grade level in math progressed to 3.8 during that same period. “She’s almost working at grade level already,” he said. “She’s made seven months of academic growth in only nine weeks.”

The MobyMax system works for students working above grade level as well. One of von Waldner’s students “started at a fourth grade level and is now at 4.6. When I teach division and fractions, he’s going to have prior knowledge, so I can put him with another group and have him help those students,” von Waldner happily predicted.

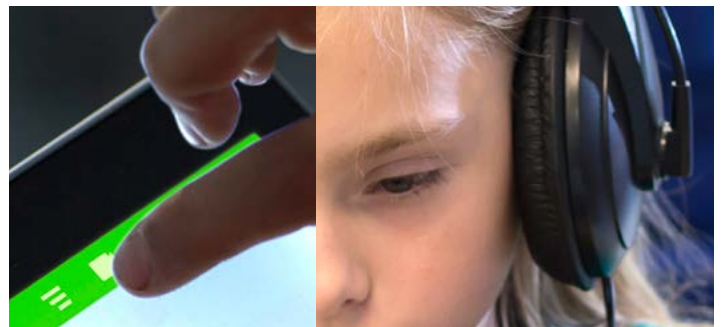
Six other things von Waldner loves about MobyMax

1. Interactive elements: MobyMax's science content includes a variety of interactive features designed to engage students. "Not only are students doing a lot of writing, but they're answering questions where they have to put things into order or drag items into Venn diagrams," he said. Video clips and interactive storylines enhance learning even more.



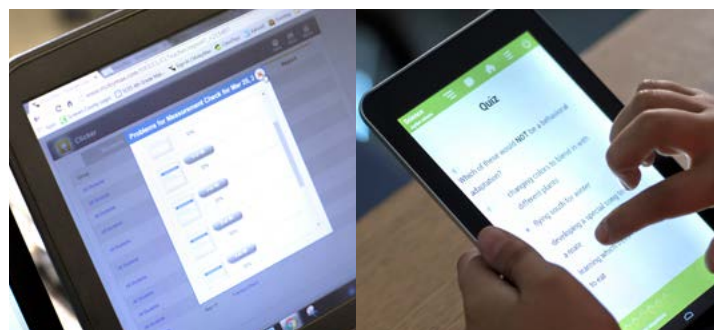
Learning by discovery with Cognitive Skills Science

2. Individual supports: "Students can go back and repeatedly watch a section of the lesson" until they understand the content, von Waldner said. "It will also read the text to them if they need that extra support. Plus, I can turn that feature on and off as necessary."



Student rewinding fractions lesson

3. Clicker: The Clicker feature enables teachers to assign questions from an item bank to check for student understanding. "I'll teach for two or three days, then assign 5 to 10 questions in MobyMax through the Clicker feature," he said. "Then I can go in and see that student A has only 33% right, so I'm going to pull her [aside] and make sure she really understands what I'm talking about, whereas student B has 90% right, so I'm going to let him go on to the next rotation and not worry about it."



Derek checking student's comprehension

“They love MobyMax for the badges and games; I love it for the high quality content. And, of course, the results!”

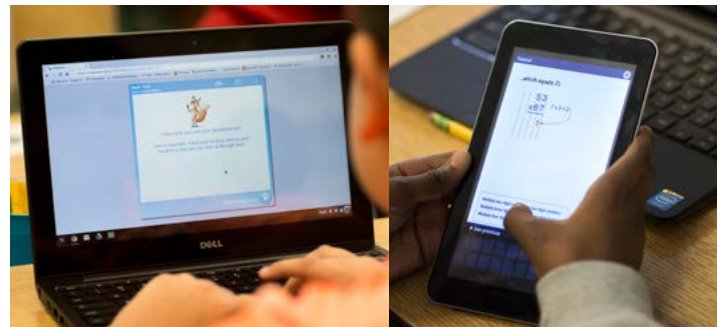
4. Formative assessment: The ability to check for understanding also informs von Waldner’s lesson plans. “If the whole class is below 80%, I’m not going to move on; I’m going to take a day or two to set up some new activities and rotations, and teach that material again,” he said.



Derek assessing overall performance

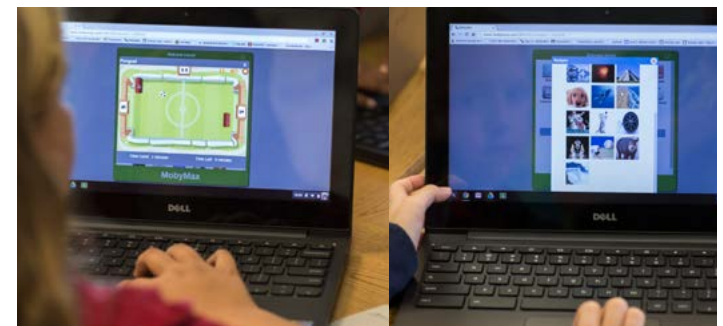
5. Informative feedback: MobyMax “tells students why they got an answer wrong,” he said, “which is something I haven’t seen before. And it makes them fix their mistakes before they go on to the next question.”

This helps students learn the content, but also much more. “It’s teaching a good life lesson,” he said. “Just like with anything in life, if you mess up, you have to go back and fix it. This is making them better learners and instilling a lifetime skill.”



Finding and fixing missing skills

6. Built-in rewards: The opportunity to earn badges and game time creates “a lot of excitement” among students, von Waldner said. “At the end of the year, I will print out all the badges and create flip books with the badges they’ve earned. It’s something they will be able to take home with them and keep forever.”



Student using game points and counting badges

Ready to see how MobyMax can impact your students’ learning? Register **FREE** at mobymax.com