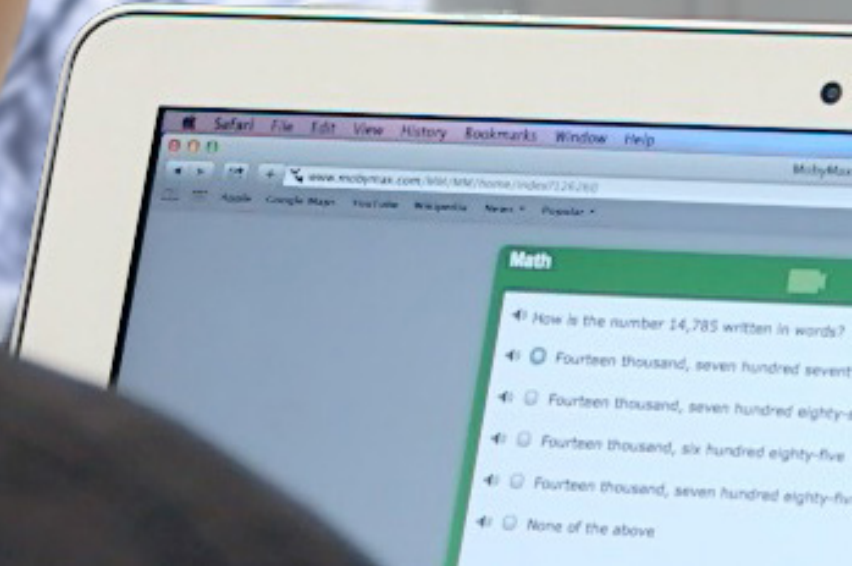




# West Virginia School Continues Learning on Snow Days with MobyMax

**“ We have very high expectations at Sherman Elementary School. Our students love the competition and using MobyMax, so that helped motivate them to participate. ”**

Jacob Messer  
Assistant Principal  
Sherman Elementary School



## A Tool for Student-Driven Learning

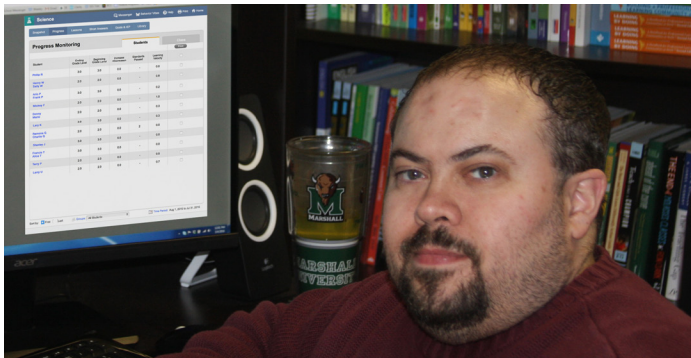
The successful implementation of technology has quickly become a top priority in schools across the nation. Among these is Sherman Elementary School, located in Comfort, W. Va. Recently, the school adopted MobyMax into its blended learning curriculum to help personalize learning. Already a huge success in the classroom, the school has extended the use of MobyMax outside of the classroom to keep students engaged and learning at home.



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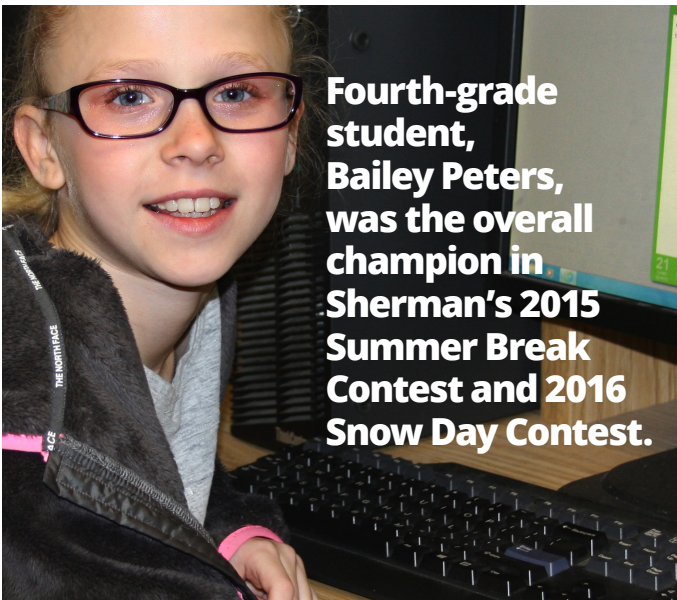
Jacob Messer  
Assistant Principal

With seven years of education experience in Boone County schools, Assistant Principal Jacob Messer helped make the decision to purchase a MobyMax license for the school.



Sherman Elementary School assistant principal Jacob Messer monitors progress.

“A fourth-grade teacher at Sherman discovered MobyMax at a math competition and decided to try it in her class,” said Messer. “She and a first-grade teacher became pilots for the program.”



While both teachers initially advocated for MobyMax because of the efficiency for instructors, they realized they had hit a home run when they saw how much their students loved using the program. After trying MobyMax in their classrooms, the teachers described their experiences to administration in hopes of getting a license for the entire school, so all Sherman students would benefit from all that MobyMax offers.

“Our teachers pitched MobyMax to us as a great way to personalize learning and differentiate instruction,” described Messer. “It is very teacher friendly and student driven. They thought it was a great and easy resource. It is self-guided, student-based instruction and the kids love it, so why not use it school wide?”

Now that every teacher at Sherman Elementary School has access to MobyMax, the school has used the program to benefit its students both in and out of the classroom.

### Creating an Eagerness to Learn on Days Off

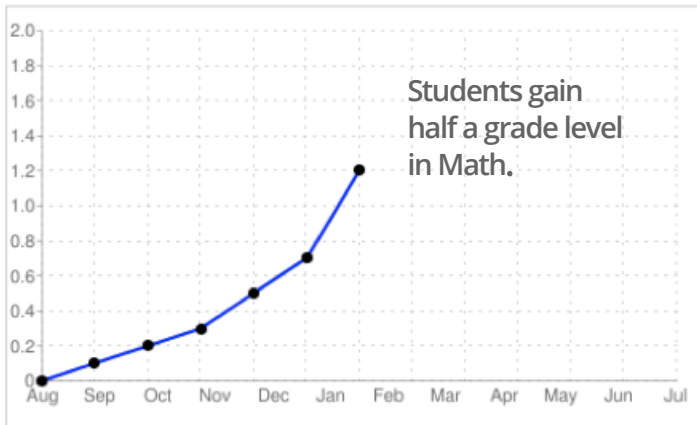
When a massive snowstorm hit the East Coast, causing multiple school day cancellations for Sherman Elementary, Messer and other staff members wanted to encourage students to continue learning over the break from school. Knowing how much the students loved MobyMax, the school offered prizes to students who completed assignments on the program during the snow days. The optional assignment escalated into a competition among students and between grades to see who could earn the most points on MobyMax over the break.



**“While the school was closed due to snow storms, we saw our students gain half a grade level of improvement in Language and Grammar across a one-month time period”** Jacob Messer  
Assistant Principal

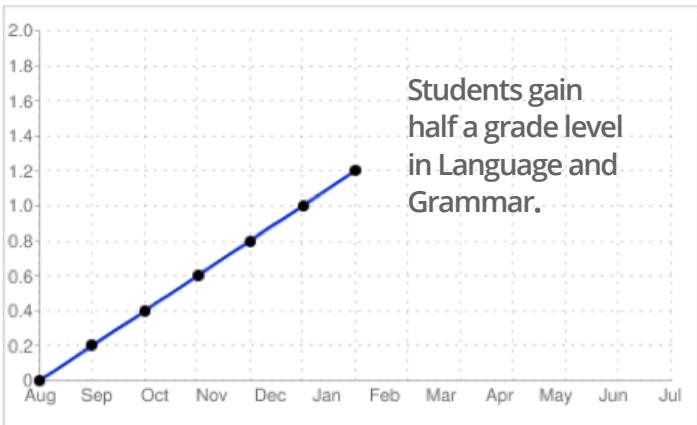


**Grade Level Increase per Month**



“We were out for seven days total, including the weekend,” said Messer. “On the first day, we had 49 participants. By the second day, we were up to 100 participants. On the final day, we finished with 138 participants.”

**Grade Level Increase per Month**



“We asked students to work on MobyMax Math, Number Sense, Language, Reading Stories, Reading Skills, Writing Workshop, Science and Test Prep for our competitions,” noted Messer. “While the school was closed due to snow storms, we saw our students gain half a grade level of improvement in Language and Grammar across a one-month time period. Spending just 60 to 90 minutes on MobyMax a day, students are able to continue to learn, practice and improve even on snow days. It’s also a win-win situation for students as they earn game time when moving through lessons.”

Since the large snowstorm, Sherman Elementary has had more cancellations due to inclement weather. The school continues to host MobyMax competitions to promote learning on unexpected days off from school.



**“Even though the competition is optional, nearly half of our students participated during the first competition.”** Jacob Messer  
Assistant Principal



Snow Day Contest winners of MobyMax tablets: Kayla Meadows (intermediate champion, grades 4-6), Decota Armentrout (primary champion, grades 1-3), and Bailey Peters (overall champion)

During the competitions, Messer uses the program to monitor the progress of the students. Leveraging social media and the stats he pulls from MobyMax, Messer “fires up” the students, teachers and parents by setting goals and sending updates throughout the day. In his social media posts, Messer evokes the same sense of school spirit he strives for when coaching the school’s basketball team. His efforts include citing the school’s basketball shirts from a past season, “The Tide rises together! Let’s do this!”

“Even though the competition is optional, nearly half of our students participated during the first competition. I believe our students are willing to do schoolwork on their days off because they rise to the

expectations set for them,” reflected Messer. “We have very high expectations at Sherman Elementary School. Our students love the competition and using MobyMax, so that motivates them to participate. It’s an idea we are evolving and tweaking as we go to make the competitions more effective over time.”



Fifth-grade student Gary Cobb loves MobyMax.



**“It was rewarding, humbling and exciting to see our total team effort become this successful!”**

Jacob Messer  
Assistant Principal



Sherman’s MobyMax gurus: first-grade teacher Tonya Pettry and fourth-grade teacher Rae Boyd

### Engaging Community and Families in Learning

The MobyMax snow day competitions have become hugely successful because of staff, student and teacher involvement. Families are able to stay connected with their children’s schoolwork from home through the program and Messer’s social media updates. On each of Messer’s posts about the competitions, multiple parents comment with questions and feedback.

“I do the tracking for the snow day contests because I like to stay involved. I love using the stats to get kids excited,” Messer said. “The teachers also track our contests and classroom activities.”

With the whole staff staying connected to students

and parents through social media and MobyMax, it has been easier to keep students engaged in learning while not in school. In fact, Messer said that parents have messaged him to ask for their child’s MobyMax login information to help facilitate learning from home.

The parents at Sherman Elementary have also helped expand the contests to the younger students at the school. Originally, the staff only planned for first grade through sixth grade students to participate. After seeing the excitement surrounding the MobyMax competition on social media, parents of the Kindergarteners wanted to get their children involved as well. Since including the Kindergarteners in the competition, they have been just as active on MobyMax as the older kids at the school.

“It is our parents, teachers and students making it so successful,” stated Messer. “Including, parent engagement has absolutely paid off.”

Because the program is simple for students, teachers and parents to use, Sherman Elementary has seen an increasing amount of students willing to learn on their days off. Since seeing how responsive students are to using MobyMax on snow days, the school plans to use similar strategies over the summer for retention purposes.

“It was rewarding, humbling and exciting to see our total team effort become this successful!” said Messer.

**Ready to see how MobyMax can impact your students’ learning? Register FREE at [mobymax.com](https://mobymax.com)**