



# Curriculum Matters

We believe that every child is capable of greatness. And it is our mission to help teachers help children achieve it.

A group of educational leaders founded the nonprofit Great Minds® in 2008 with the mission of providing a comprehensive and content-rich education to all students. Since then, Great Minds has worked with teachers and scholars to create powerful instructional materials to fulfill that mission. We give teachers the tools and professional support to take their students beyond rote memorization and give them a deeper and more complete understanding of the subject matter, setting them up for success in higher education, careers, and life.

In 2013 we rose to the challenge to support New York State's request for a new, comprehensive mathematics curriculum that would align with new standards initiatives. EngageNY Math/*Eureka Math*™ had such strong adoption and implementation success nationwide that we created *Wit & Wisdom*®, a dynamic new English language arts (ELA) curriculum, and *PhD Science*™ with the same mission—to give educators powerful instructional materials that help all children achieve their full potential.

*“Students quickly learned to think, to really think, and found success in doing so.”*

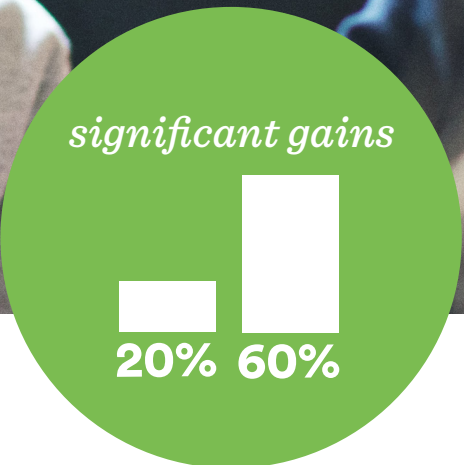
**Grade 4 Teacher**, Sheridan School District, Denver, CO



GREAT MINDS



Grade 4 gains on the Florida State Assessment (below) for **Harbor City Elementary (FL) School** from SY2015–2016 to SY2016–2017 after adopting *Eureka Math* in 2016.



# A New Math for a New Day

**Eureka Math™** helps students achieve conceptual understanding.

The curriculum’s learning design aims to establish conceptual understanding first, before tending to automaticity of procedural skills. Lessons help students develop, expand, and apply that conceptual understanding to honing their problem-solving skills. One goal of this methodology is to provide students with multiple ways to solve problems. Once students firmly understand a concept, they can more intelligently assess a problem and choose the best and most efficient way to solve it. Those students won’t get stuck and give up on the problem, or worse, on math itself.

For example, the student who has merely memorized the Pythagorean theorem does not know why it works—the theorem is an abstraction, not a piece of knowledge. But the student who understands the concepts behind the theorem can explain why it works and apply it more broadly and to unfamiliar material.

*“I’ve never experienced anything so powerful in education. Our students can now solve unbelievably complex problems and share their thinking with pride and enthusiasm. We have been changed forever.”*

**Kelly Boynton**, Executive Director for Elementary Education, Bethel Public Schools, WA



[greatminds.org/math](http://greatminds.org/math)

# More Meaningful English

## Building content knowledge and developing literacy skills

Our English language arts curriculum project began in 2010, when Great Minds teacher-writers selected content-rich texts and identified the skills and competencies students would need to engage with the language and ideas in the texts. Writing teams collaborated across grade levels to ensure a consistent structure and vision for student learning from Kindergarten through Grade 8. Everything that happens in *Wit & Wisdom*® classrooms starts with the text, because content is the core of English instruction.

In 2018, Great Minds collaborated with literacy experts at Wilson Language Training, the publisher of *Foundations*®, to create a collection of accessible, knowledge-building books for emerging and developing readers. *Geodes*™ texts combine specific decoding strategies with content and vocabulary knowledge, resulting in wonderfully accessible, rich books for primary level readers.

*“The changes I’m seeing here are amazing, and I don’t know why we didn’t have this sooner.”*

**Kacy Leiner**, Grade 5 Teacher, Mad River Local School District, OH

**WIT &  
WISDOM**®

**GEODES**™

[greatminds.org/english](http://greatminds.org/english)  
[greatminds.org/geodes](http://greatminds.org/geodes)

**71%**  
*growth*

Within its first year of adopting *Wit & Wisdom*, the **Vare-Washington (PA) School** Grade 4 class achieved a median student growth percentile of 71 in literacy—indicating that on average, students increased their literacy skills faster than 71 percent of Grade 4 students nationwide.



# Science Education as Limitless as Science Itself

Inspiring students to wonder about the world and empowering them to make sense of it

Created by our expert team of teacher-writers, *PhD Science*™ builds deep scientific understanding by exploring compelling phenomena. Students actively engage in the process by analyzing questions about the phenomena, solving real-world problems, studying informational texts, and performing hands-on investigations.

Students engage with all three dimensions of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in modules that feature anchor phenomena and storylines carried throughout the lessons. Critically, these phenomena and storylines highlight key concepts and ensure coherence to deepen understanding. Students drive learning through exploring, questioning, and investigating and then apply their new knowledge in unfamiliar contexts.

*“Before this, science was an acquisition of facts. We read from a book and we answered questions. But it was never an experience generated by the students ... This curriculum is a science experience.”*

Susan Warren, Grade 4 Teacher,  
Valley View Public Schools, IL

## PhD SCIENCE™

[greatminds.org/science](http://greatminds.org/science)

