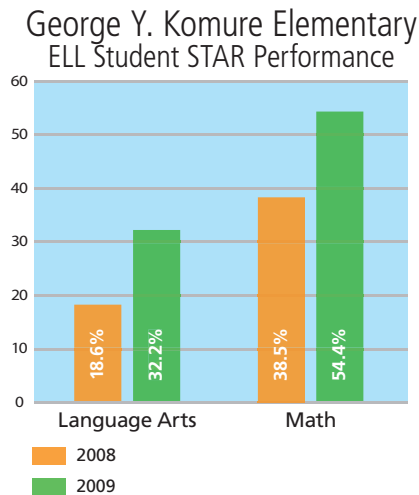


George Y. Komure Elementary, Manteca Unified School District, CA

CLASSWORKS HELPS MEET THE NEEDS OF A CHANGING STUDENT POPULATION



“As our teachers became more focused on specific standards and making sure students were working specifically on their areas of need, we saw the benefits in student engagement and in test scores.”

— Jo Ella Allen, Principal
George Y. Komure Elementary

Challenge: The demographics at George Y. Komure Elementary have changed dramatically over the past several years. This K-8 school’s population was once considered middle class, but foreclosures have resulted in an increase in renters and in lower socioeconomic students and English Language Learners. While these populations increase in the school, they are challenged to make school-wide gains in performance and not let those groups fall further behind.

Goals:

- Raise overall school performance on the STAR in both math and language arts
- Ensure Economically Disadvantaged students keep pace with their peers
- Target Language Learners to meet AYP proficiency levels

Action Plan: In meeting the challenge of a changing student population head-on, Komure Elementary enacted a number of measures to ensure success for all students. In addition to schoolwide weekly time in the Classworks lab, targeted groups of struggling students in 7th and 8th were given Classworks electives that met every other day. The English Language Learners were enrolled in a pullout program using custom designed Classworks language arts assignments three times per week. Afterschool tutoring also featured Classworks—and in all cases teachers selected the specific content standards they wanted their students to work on and coordinated all Classworks use with the specific needs of their students.

Results:

- Schoolwide STAR proficiency levels increased—from 35.3 to 41.5 in language arts and from 41.3 to 49.2 in math
- Economically Disadvantaged students made gains as well, outpacing schoolwide gains in math with an 8.5 percent increase in proficiency
- English Language Learners posted dramatic increases—from 18.6 to 32.2 in language arts and 38.5 to 54.4 in math
- As a group, the ELL students met AYP proficiency criteria for the first time in 2009