

# Teamwork, Determination, and Quality Instruction Lead to Success

*Webb Elementary, Houston County Schools, AL*

Webb Elementary School was awarded the CLAS Banner School Award for growth in academic performance during the 2014 - 2015 school year. The CLAS Award recognizes schools with outstanding educational programs that demonstrate proven success during the school year.

Within Houston County Schools, Webb Elementary (WES) achieved the most gains during the 2014 - 15 school year – a remarkable achievement for a school that was named an Alabama Focus School just one year prior.



## **The Back Story**

In the 2013 - 2014 school year, the faculty at WES made a commitment as a team to get off the Focus School list. Marsha Shelley, Webb Elementary principal explains, "Our team was deflated when we were named a Focus school, but we quickly turned that into resolve!" In addition, their students would be taking the ACT Aspire (Alabama's High Stakes Test) that year.

The team evaluated all of their resources. Classworks was a district resource provided as an optional supplement. After taking an in depth look at what the program offers the team agreed—Classworks would help them accomplish their goals!

## **The Plan**

"First, all students are given a Classworks assessment to find areas of weakness. Then, we use Classworks instruction to strengthen the specific skills," explains Carol Wells, Webb Elementary instructional coach.

All students at WES work on Classworks at least one class period each week. Students with skill deficits are given additional class time to work in Classworks. "The right students receiving the right amount and type of instruction is crucial. Classworks takes out the guesswork because it uses their individual data to give them exactly what they need."

### **About Webb Elementary School**

State: Alabama

School District: Houston County Schools

Number of students: 490

Number of teachers: 31

Total number of students: ~10,000

Free/reduced lunch: 89% eligible

Classworks customer since: 2013



## **The Result**

Using this approach, Webb Elementary experienced tremendous outcomes including their recognition as a CLAS Banner School!

### **Success! Spring 2015 Test Scores**

All students with greater than three hours of time-on-task in Classworks improved their spring reading and math test scores!

- Math scores improved 36%!
  - 56% of students scored on or above grade level in math in the spring compared to 20% in the fall.
- Reading scores improved by 33%!
  - 58% of students scored on or above grade level in reading in the spring compared to 25% in the fall.

### **Success! ACT Aspire**

“Once we saw the progress made on the spring assessment we were confident this would translate to the 2014 - 2015 ACT Aspire scores,” says Principal Shelley. “We were happy to be right!”

Houston County School District and Webb Elementary experienced growth on their ACT Aspire scores when compared to the prior year, despite the fact that the state of Alabama fell flat.

*“Classworks has had an important role in the intervention process and closing achievement gaps here at WES. Webb Elementary has been able to increase student achievement and ACT Aspire test scores over the past three years! Though Classworks isn’t the sole reason, giving our teachers access to quality digital instruction has helped tremendously,” relays Ms. Wells.*

### **What’s Next?**

This school year, Webb has also implemented Classworks on-grade level classroom reading and math lessons into the classroom for whole class and small group instruction.

“The leveled passages and text-dependent questions Classworks Integrated Reading provides are a perfect supplement to our adopted reading program. Plus, our teachers love that Classworks Applied Math provides already differentiated problems that build in complexity,” highlights Ms. Wells.

*“Classworks is woven into the fabric of our district now. We are able to successfully intervene for students in need of additional support and provide enrichment to those who master the necessary grade-level skills. It works! The proof is in the success experienced by our schools like Webb Elementary. We continue to see our students reaching new heights of achievement.”*  
*Cas Haddock, District Assessment Coordinator for Houston County Schools*