CASE STUDY: CLEAR LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL, CLEAR LAKE, IA
IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE AND STUDENT-CENTRIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Clear Lake Middle School serves Grades 6-8 students in Clear Lake, IA. The school of 300 students implements a 1:1 iPad program. Students love how easy it is to use the iPad in their everyday schoolwork. When it came to adopting an online assessment platform for his teachers, Principal Steve Kwikkel did not forget his students. "I wanted a system that would make the assessment process more effective and efficient for my teachers. But I also wanted a system that would be student-friendly and have a focus on the students," recalls Kwikkel. "That's why I chose Naiku for my teachers and my students."

Emily Hill, Technology Integration Coach at the middle school and high school, agrees. "The goal for us as a district was to find an efficient way to collect data and be able to analyze and compare student-to-student and the progress of the student," said Hill. "As a staff, we were trying to achieve a consistent way to administer both summative and formative assessments." Hill noted the value and importance of formative assessment to the district and the desire to move beyond the usual pre-test and post-test model. To achieve these goals, it was important to have an assessment platform that was easy to use so that teachers could create and conduct more frequent formative assessments.

Teacher-Friendly Features

Naiku makes it easy for teachers to create assessments and items. With the Quick Key feature, teachers can upload an existing test that they may already have in a Word or PDF document. When creating new tests and items, they have the choice to write a variety of item types, ranging from multiple-choice, constructed-response, and matching items. They can also develop technology-enhanced items such as drag-and-drop (ordering), matching, and inline text, and multiple yes/no. In addition to creating new items, teachers can also search for items from an item bank to quickly add to their assessment. With all these features, teachers can quickly build their assessments in Naiku.

To make things even friendlier and to encourage collaboration, teachers can share any item or assessment that they create. When items and assessments are shared with other teachers in the school, across the district, or worldwide, teachers can quickly search for and use those items or assessments with their students. There is no need for teachers to recreate what other teachers have already done.

Angela Faber, Grade 8 Social Studies teacher, previously used Google Forms and paper and pencil assessments before the school adopted Naiku. With her assessments now quickly created and delivered in Naiku, Faber noted, "I love the immediate feedback that is provided. I can look at each student's results immediately and as a class. This helps me assess if one student needs more instruction or if several students need more instruction to understand the concepts. I can see if students are missing one particular question often, which helps me evaluate the question or if I need to re-teach a concept or skill."

Clear Lake Middle School Fast Facts

Part of Clear Lake Community School District

Located in Clear Lake, IA

300 students

1:1 iPad Program

Home of the Lions

Uses of Naiku

Teaches have created:

- 1,600 Assessments
- 4,500 Items

Students have:

- Taken 19,000 Assessments
- Predicted 4,500 Scores
- Rated Confidence on 3000 tests
- Passed 73% of the Assessments (scored > 70%)

Student-Centric Focus

Naiku is student-centric, promoting research-proven student engagement with student expectations, confidence ratings, and journaling/justification during a test. Immediately post-test, students can self-assess and reflect while reviewing responses and answer rationale, and receive adaptive learning resources based on their performance for personalized learning. These strategies have been demonstrated in leading educational research, such as that by Dr. John Hattie in *Visible Learning*, to accelerate student learning.

Question	Answer	Correct	Score	Class	Confidence
1	B	C	0 of 1.0	50%	Uncertain
2	C	C	1 of 1.0	100%	High
3	D	D	1 of 1.0	100%	High
4	B	A	0 of 1.0	40%	Uncertain
5	C	C	1 of 1.0	90%	Uncertain
6	A	A	1 of 1.0	60%	High
7	D	D	1 of 1.0	50%	Uncertain
8	A	A	1 of 1.0	90%	High
9	D	A	0 of 1.0	80%	High
10	A	A	1 of 1.0	70%	High

Tom Hartwig, Grade 7 social studies teacher, also previously used Google Forms but found it too tedious to go through the spreadsheet when viewing student results. "Naiku lays out the data in a way that students and their parents can better visualize," said Hartwig, who also asks students to predict their scores before taking the test and to rate their confidence on each item. This helps students develop their metacognitive skills, which improves self-assessment skills. On a 10-question geography quiz, one of his students predicted a score of 36%, while actually scoring 70%. The student was uncertain of his answers on questions 5 and 7, even though he answered them correctly. "When I see results like this, I talk with the student to see how I can help," added Hartwig. "I get more than a single percent correct number. This gives me more insight on how to help the student. The more I know about a student, the better I'm equipped to help them learn. And to me, teaching is all about student learning."

Students appreciate this learner-centric approach from Hartwig. "I like using the iPad to take my test. It is so easy to do. I get scores right away. I like that. I also like doing the predictions and ratings. And I like that Mr. Hartwig uses that to help me," noted one student.

Principal Kwikkel is happy to see both teachers and students using Naiku. "It's super user-friendly. That makes it easy for teachers and students to use."

Kwikkel in fact uses Naiku himself. He often uses the Quick Question instant polling feature to engage with his students. He's conducted opinion polls of students during lunch and assembly. He's also used it with teachers during staff meetings. "The more we use Naiku for formative and summative assessments, the better and more meaningful data we get about our students. This positively impacts our teaching and their learning," said Kwikkel.

TRANSFORMATIVE

Naiku Educator Spotlight

Emily Hill is a licensed 6-12 Language Arts teacher. She started her teaching career at a high school before switching to 8th grade language arts. After 11 years in the classroom, Hill now serves as the Technology Integration Coach in both the middle school and high school in Clear Lake. Throughout her teaching career, Hill teamed up with other teachers to create meaningful assignments and projects for students. "As a technology integration coach, I get to spend more time working with and helping other teachers create better assignments and projects for our students. I help and show them how educational technology tools like Naiku can help them create better assessments, using a variety of item types, to assess more than just remembering of basic facts. That's what I love about my job," said Hill.

Emily Hill
Technology Integration Coach