

NAIKU CASE STUDY



CASE STUDY: WEST GATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PRINCE WILLIAM CO SCHOOLS DATA-DRIVEN INSTRUCTIONAL DECISION MAKING TO EXCELLENCE

West Gate Elementary School serves K-5 students in Manassas, VA. The school of 600 students has a high Limited English Proficiency (70%) and Economically Disadvantaged (92%) population. In 2012, the school found itself on the list of “failing” schools with only 66% and 50% of its students passing the VA SOL Reading and Math assessments, respectively.

A New Focus on Data

The school quickly turned itself around when the new principal put an emphasis on data-driven instructional decision making. Teacher data teams were formed and met regularly to discuss how students performed on unit assessments. Teachers identified the standards where students excelled and where they struggled. The teachers used these data to improve their instruction to increase student learning.

With the new focus on data-driven instructional decision-making, the school quickly improved. State test scores increased each year. In 2015, the school had 76% and 93% of its students pass the VA SOL Reading and Mathematics assessments. The state now considers West Gate a School of Excellence.

The New Path to Continued Excellence

The journey to excellence is not without its struggles. Data-driven instructional decision-making can be an arduous process particularly when assessments are given on paper and teachers manually score and analyze the data. This is what the teacher data teams at West Gate had been doing for two years.

In 2014, Patrick Heath, West Gate’s Instructional Technology Coach, thought there had to be an easier and more effective way. He sought to find an online assessment platform that could deliver, score, and analyze standards-based assessments for his teachers. “I was also looking for an online assessment platform that would look and feel like the state’s online assessment. I was looking for reading passages to be displayed side-by-side with the questions. I knew that it would be good for my students to take tests on the computers so that they would be more comfortable with it,” Heath recalls.

When Heath saw Naiku, he knew that he had found his solution. He was enthralled by Naiku’s student-centric assessment features where students predict their score, rate their confidence, and reflect on their performance. He thought that not only would the teacher team reports by standards be instrumental for his data teams, the student-centric assessment features would further engage his students and improve student achievement.

In the fall of 2014, Heath began a small Naiku pilot with his fourth grade teachers. They were quickly sold on the results that they quickly received from Naiku. “This is amazing,” noted one teacher. No longer did teachers have to manually score and analyze their data by hand to share them with their teams.



Westgate Elementary School Fast Facts

Part of Prince William County Public Schools

Located in Manassas, VA

600 students

70% Limited English Proficiency

85% Economically Disadvantaged



Primary Uses of Naiku

74 Unit Assessments Created

500 Items Developed

Teacher Team Reports

Student Prediction

Student Confidence

Student Reflection

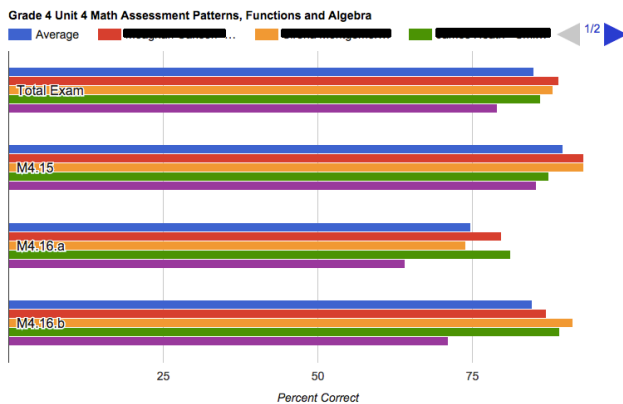
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Innovative Educator Grant

With the success of the Fall 2014 pilot, Heath won a Naiku Innovative Educator Grant to bring Naiku to all his teachers and students. He knew that they would greatly benefit from Naiku's standards-based and student-centric assessment approach.

For 2015-2016, Heath has created many of his school's Math, Reading, and Science unit and benchmark assessments in Naiku. After teaching the unit, teachers simply assign the assessment to their class. Students quickly log in to Naiku and take the test and receive immediate results. After closing the test, the teacher receives immediate reports by standards, allowing them to compare how their class performed against other classes who have taken the same assessment. The Math Team Report for a Grade 4 unit assessment below (with teacher names redacted) illustrates how quickly the teachers were able to identify the standards where they needed to adjust their instruction.



Quick Adoption of Naiku

Heath's teachers and students have quickly adopted Naiku. More tests are created and taken each month.

	Oct '15	Nov '15	Dec '15	Jan '16
Assessment Created	8	15	18	33
Tests Taken	55	63	302	304
Mean Actual Score	75%	68%	77%	73%
Mean Predicted Score	89%	86%	84%	88%
Pct Passing (Score > 70%)	75%	57%	73%	74%

Teachers love how Naiku reports provide them with actionable information in their collaborative learning teams. Students love using computers to take their tests. One student remarked, "I love getting immediate results. And I'm not bored after the test because I get to do the reflections."

A sample of students' reflections on a recent Science benchmark assessment reveals how they felt about the test and their science ability:

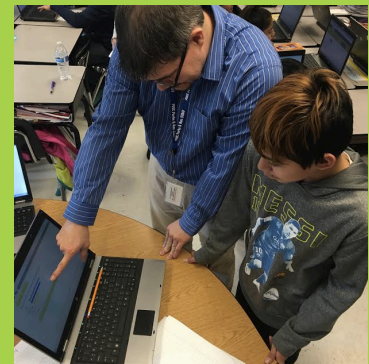
- *This test was extremely easy. I didn't have any trouble answering the questions. Naiku try harder to make the questions not so easy. :] LOLLOLOLOLOLO!*
- *I like this test and did better than my last one and I'm so happy for not failing this time*
- *I'm not the best at science but I can't believe I got a 92!!!*

Heath is pleased to have the leadership and support of Principal Julie Svendsen in the school's focus on data-driven instruction. "Our teachers have to make adjustments to their instruction based on the data. Naiku has made that process much easier and efficient for our teachers," said Heath.

TRANSFORMATIVE

Naiku Educator Spotlight

Patrick Heath currently serves as the Instructional Technology Coach (ITC) at Westgate Elementary School. Previously, he taught 4th and 5th grades for six years. In his role as the ITC, Heath provides and helps teachers integrate educational technology tools into their instruction. Heath won a Naiku Innovative Educator Grant to help his teachers be more efficient with their data-driven instructional decision-making process. "With Naiku, my teachers now have immediate results by standards for their data team meetings," said Heath. "No longer do they have to score and analyze data by hand. Students also love taking their tests on the computers and getting immediate results," added Heath.



Patrick Heath
Instructional Technology Coach
Westgate Elementary School