



Success Story

Troy Intermediate School Raises Its Scores— And Student Engagement—With *StudySync*®



Avon Lake, Ohio

Overview

Troy Intermediate is located in Avon Lake, Ohio on the shores of Lake Erie. The school serves approximately 600 students in grades 5 and 6 and has a student-teacher ratio of roughly 20:1. Troy's stated mission is to provide excellence in education for every student.

In that spirit, Troy Intermediate recently introduced a new English language arts program called *StudySync*. The comprehensive program is a cross-curricular, core English language arts solution with over one thousand texts and text excerpts, dynamic video, and multimedia lessons designed to advance reading, writing, and critical thinking.

Implementation

Heather Dagleish is a 6th grade Language Arts teacher at Troy Intermediate. She has been using—and loving—*StudySync* since fall of the 2016/17 school year.

“We didn’t have a comprehensive ELA program before *StudySync*, so there was nothing to compare it to except other programs on the market,” says Dagleish. “First, we evaluated the cost of *StudySync* and the cost of textbook-based programs, and there was no comparison. *StudySync* was more cost-effective, and the quality is as good, if not better than the text-based programs.”

Dagleish notes that the flexibility of the program was one of its biggest selling points. “Our Curriculum Director was seeking a comprehensive ELA option that we could customize as needed,” she recalls. “*StudySync* is flexible enough that we can tailor it any way we want.”

Student Engagement

Heather Dagleish teaches a wide variety of students in her classroom, so having a program that works for every student is a big deal.

“I start my day with a gifted class, my next period is general ELA, and my last is inclusion,” says Dagleish. “*StudySync* allows me to differentiate through Lexile® levels. Everyone benefits, because I can stretch students or remediate depending on what my students need.”

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6th grade Language Arts teacher
Troy Intermediate School

Dagleish admits that in the beginning she had some reservations about getting started because she was initially overwhelmed by how much *StudySync* has to offer.

“*StudySync* has so much content, but I’d much rather have too much and be able to use it my way,” she says. “For instance, the grammar piece is amazing. I can pick and choose what I want to teach at any given time. I can pull questions I don’t like, throw nouns and verbs together in one lesson or scale down and just look at linking verbs. It’s all up to me.”

When asked how the kids are responding, Dagleish is enthusiastic. “The kids are very engaged. They love it,” she says. “My students especially love the Blasts, and they beg me to do them. I use them as a carrot, because they don’t realize when they are doing Blasts that they are actually engaging in critical thinking.”

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Blasts are short, social media-like daily reading and writing assignments that encourage students to develop informed opinions about current events and share them succinctly in 140 characters or less.

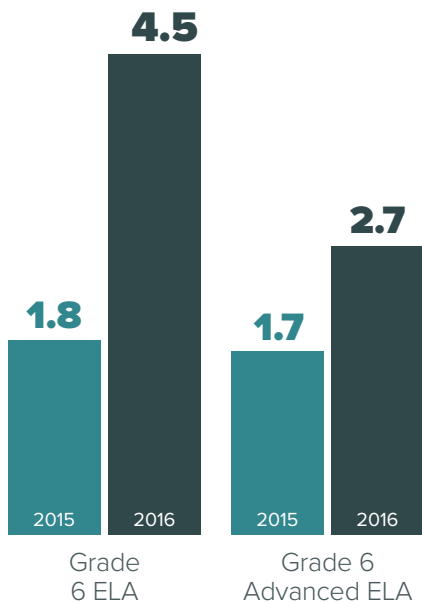
Results

Dagleish feels so strongly about the effectiveness of *StudySync* that she recently drove an hour and a half after work to speak to ELA teachers in another district about the program.

Before implementing *StudySync*, Dagleish and her colleagues looked at the skills their students were lacking, and they used *StudySync* to address those gaps. Their ELA Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP) results speak for themselves.

Grade 6 general ELA students grew an average of **1.8 IN 2015** compared to an average of **4.5 IN 2016** after *StudySync* was implemented.

Student Performance before and after Implementation of *StudySync*



Grade 6 advanced ELA students grew an average of **1.7 IN 2015** compared to **2.7 IN 2016**.

Her general ELA students grew an average of 1.8 in 2015 compared to an average of 4.5 in 2016 after *StudySync* was implemented. Her advanced students grew an average of 1.7 in 2015 compared to 2.7 in 2016.

“I love it because we are seeing results. I feel strongly that we are doing what’s right for our kids.”

– Heather Dalglish

The Future

Dalglish is confident that Troy Intermediate will continue to use *StudySync* in its ELA classrooms, because the program is continually changing to meet the needs of its students.

“The content is always being updated with positive changes, and they are quick to respond to teachers’ needs,” says Dalglish. “The customer service is amazing. We never have to worry about outgrowing *StudySync*.”

About *StudySync*[®]

StudySync is a flexible, literature-rich ELA/ELL core curriculum that continually evolves to meet the changing expectations of grade 6–12 educators, students, and standards. *StudySync* offers richer, more dynamic, and more targeted content that enables teachers to bring their passion for literature and great writing to life. Age-appropriate content, engaging multimedia and flexible features make lessons more accessible, so every student can cultivate a passion for literature.