

UpSmart Students Surpass Annual Grade-Level Expectations on the MAP® Growth Reading and Mathematics Assessments

During the 2018–2019 school year, Ridgeline Academy piloted UpSmart reading and mathematics with middle school students. Study results showed that UpSmart participants achieved statistically significant gains that exceeded annual growth expectations on the MAP Growth assessments (Figure 1 and Figure 2). From fall 2018 to spring 2019, 63 percent of 6th graders met or exceeded reading growth expectations, as did 59 percent of 7th graders and 76 percent of 8th graders (Figure 1). Similarly, on the MAP Growth mathematics assessment, 82 percent of 6th graders, 73 percent of 7th graders, and 93 percent of 8th graders surpassed fall-to-spring growth expectations (Figure 2).

RIDGELINE ACADEMY DEMOGRAPHICS:

Enrollment: 607 Students

White	79%
Hispanic	13%
Two or more races	4%
Asian American	2%
African American	1%
American Indian	<1%
Hawaiian Native	<1%

Figure 1. Ridgeline Academy Edgenuity Students, Grades 6, 7, and 8

Performance on the MAP Growth Reading Assessment, Fall 2018 to Spring 2019

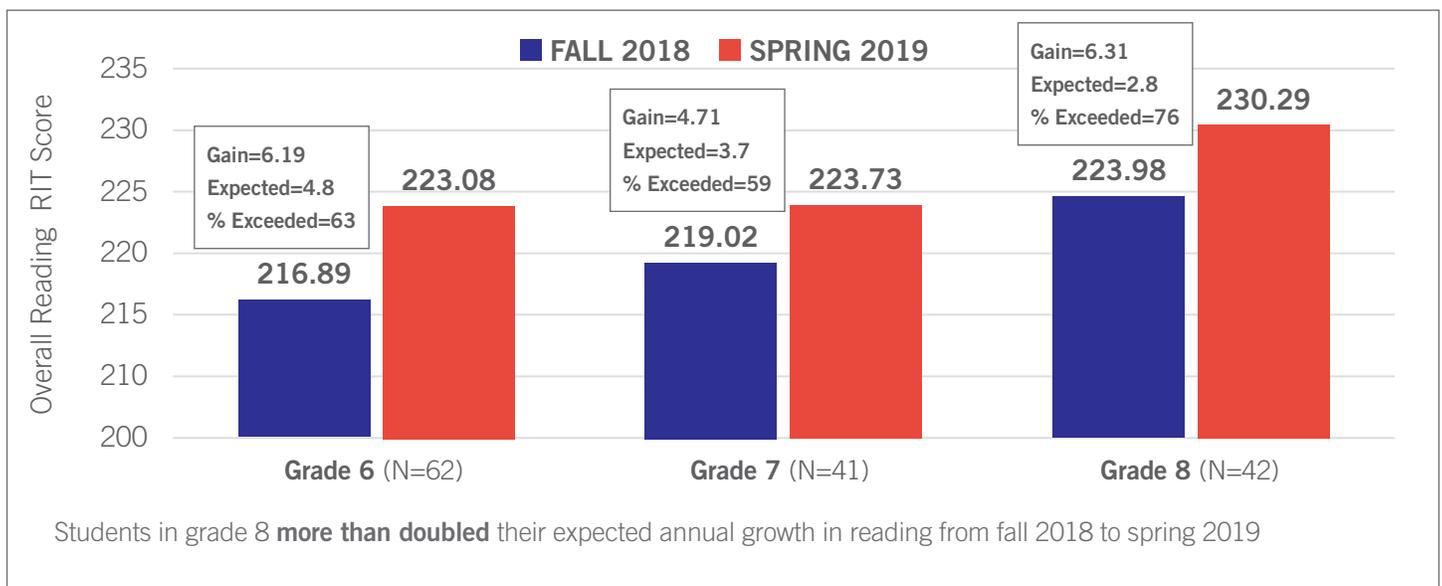
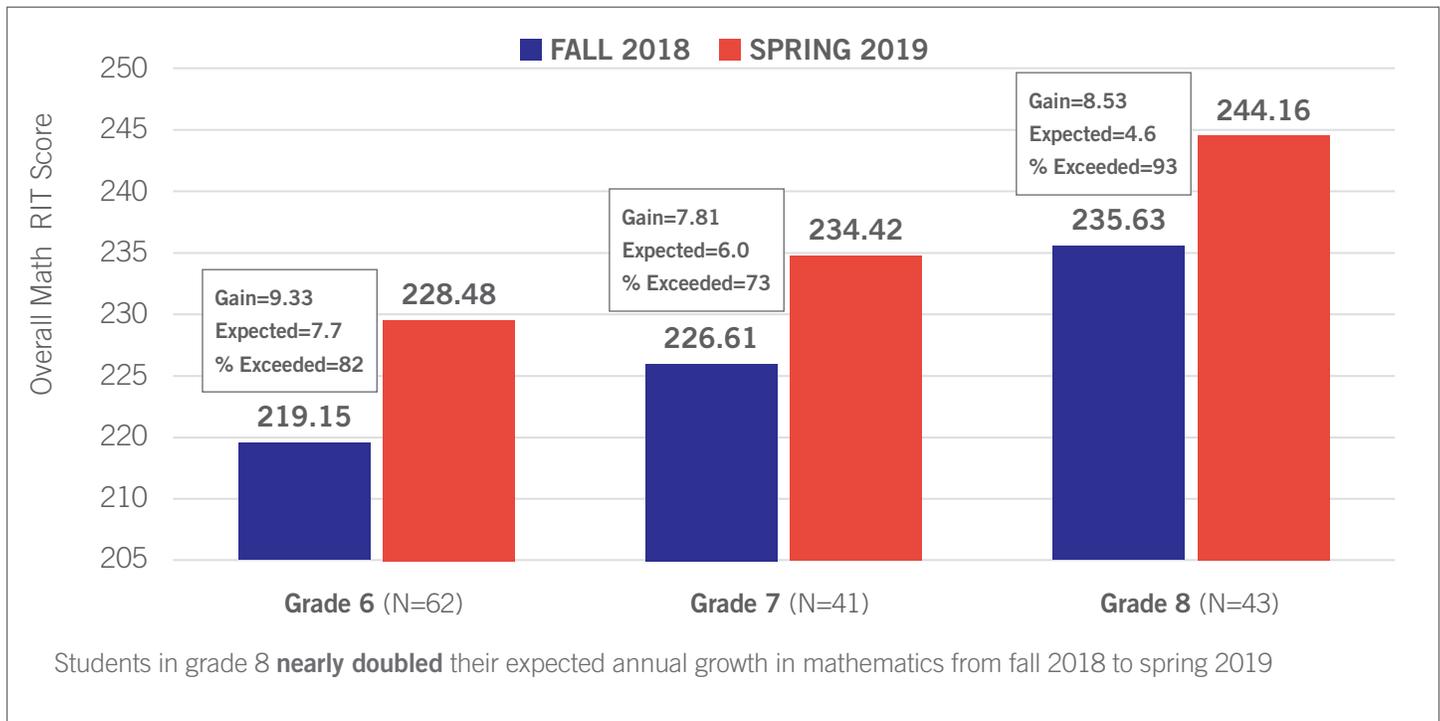


Figure 2. Ridgeline Academy Edgenuity Students, Grades 6, 7, and 8

Performance on the MAP Growth Mathematics Assessment, Fall 2018 to Spring 2019



Challenge

Ridgeline Academy is a public charter school located in North Phoenix that serves more than 600 students in grades K–8. The goal of the school is to build lifelong learners who are independent, critical thinkers and are literate in all subjects. While Ridgeline Academy has an A+ rating, the school needed a way to provide additional practice and fill gaps in its middle schoolers' mathematics and reading instruction.

Solution

Ridgeline Academy searched for an online solution that could quickly identify and meet each student's unique learning needs. The school selected Edgenuity UpSmart because the program combines targeted assessment, adaptive instruction, and supportive scaffolding (topic introduction videos, hints, and modeling) to give students the support they need at exactly the moment they need it. Students at Ridgeline used UpSmart in their classrooms at least 60 minutes per week per subject, after they received teacher-led instruction in a reading or mathematics topic.

Lessons Learned

School administrators and teachers reported that UpSmart:

- **Generated meaningful results:** In addition to MAP Growth test data, Edgenuity obtained spring 2019 AzMERIT mathematics and reading scores for UpSmart students. Results showed that 60 percent of students scored at the Proficient or Highly Proficient level on the mathematics test and 55 percent scored at the Proficient or Highly Proficient level on the reading test. Data also revealed a strong correlation between UpSmart use and performance on the AzMERIT assessments. Students who mastered more topics in UpSmart were more likely to have higher scores on the 2019 AzMERIT reading ($r = .523$, $p = .000$) and mathematics assessments ($r = .658$, $p = .000$).

- **Resonated with students:** UpSmart purposefully delivers age-appropriate online content in a variety of instructional formats (including video lectures, graphic displays, video captions, and text) to students. Assistant Principal Julie Downing says, “The presentation of content really resonated with students. The content wasn’t boring or babyish. The program hints, answer-specific feedback, and show-me videos really motivated students. It allowed them to feel confident, master content, and carry out tasks independently.”
- **Provided actionable data to teachers:** UpSmart provides detailed reports that show students’ mastery of standards and skills. Downing notes that the data in the UpSmart learning management system enabled teachers in the school to identify and support students who were struggling. It also enabled teachers to “more efficiently communicate with parents about their students’ unique skill strengths and weaknesses.”