

Success Story

Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District

RIO RICO, AZ

Grades: K–12

Reach: 3,500 students

Model: Intervention and
Summer Enrichment

Goal: Address learning gaps
and see gains on NWEA™
MAP® Growth™

Time Period: 2017–2019

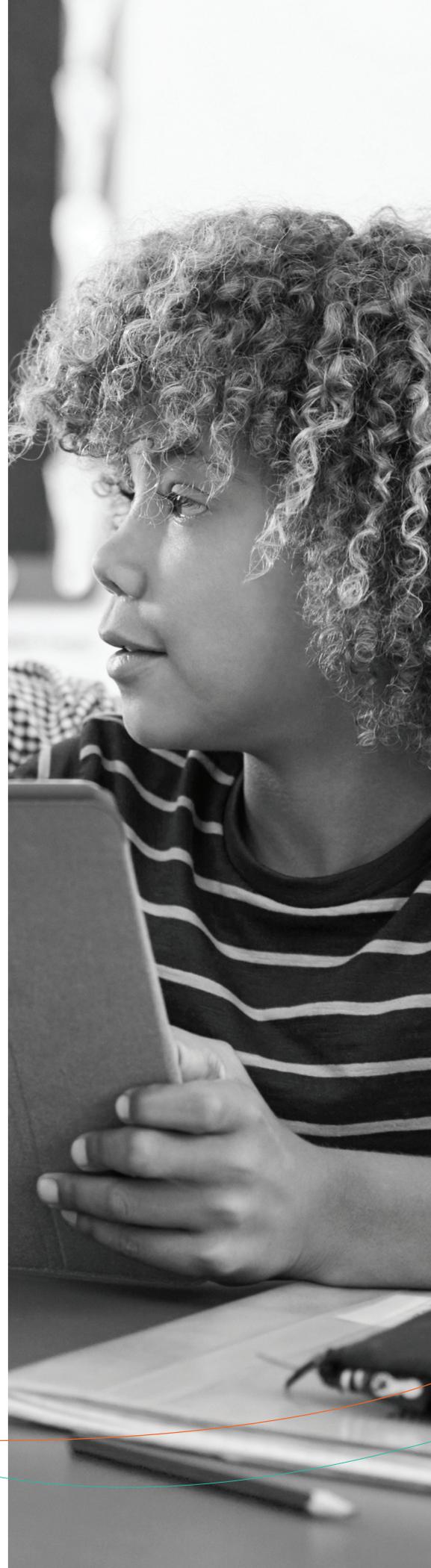
One District's Success with Integrating Technology in the Classroom

Integrating technology into everyday use in schools can be challenging, but having a technology advocate can help. Jennifer Prusak, the Technology Integration Specialist for Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District in southern Arizona, acted as the technology advocate in her school. She started out teaching kindergarten and third grade and worked hard to bring technology into her classroom. Over time, the presence of technology in classrooms throughout her district increased, and Prusak was hired as a district-wide Technology Integration Specialist with the intent of helping her colleagues to incorporate programs like Pathblazer® and MyPath™ into their teaching to address learning gaps and see increases in NWEA™ MAP® Growth™ scores.

In a district with 3,500 students, 95% of whom are English language learners, one of the main keys to student success has been the use of assessment programs to help pinpoint the students' level of understanding. "Because of the integrations, we can use that data to help create the individualized learning pathways for our students," said Prusak.

FINDING THE RIGHT PATH

Using results from the previous weeks' tests and quizzes, teachers assign students work in the intervention program, which allows them to brush up on skills they struggled with, and receive extra instruction and practice to reinforce other skills and concepts. "We didn't have to add anything extra to our schedule. We just had to rethink how we utilized our time," said Prusak. Elementary school teachers were able to repurpose two hours a week of intervention time that included



Pathblazer sessions and personalized instruction in small groups. At the middle school level, Santa Cruz Valley allows students the freedom to choose between using Pathblazer or MyPath based on their individual preferences. Teachers are then able to integrate the programs into their classrooms during daily tutorial and enrichment time.

“ [Students are] liking the program, thinking about it [and] excited to keep using it.

PREVENTING SUMMER SLIDE WITH TECHNOLOGY

Additionally, Santa Cruz Valley has been able to garner both student and community support for technology use. In Summer 2017, they ran a challenge that rewarded students for using Pathblazer for 30 minutes each week. Students who did this received donated prizes like scooters and tablets, and educators used test scores to see that those same students experienced less summer learning loss in math. “[Students are] liking the program, thinking about it [and] excited to keep using it,” said Prusak.

The district also hosts monthly tech nights, where Prusak connects with parents and other community members to tell them more about the programs and how to use them. Prusak and other Santa Cruz Valley administrators are receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback. Parents are enthusiastic because they’re seeing tangible growth in their kids, and teachers are pleased that they’re able to maximize their class time and see real results.

By integrating Pathblazer and MyPath into the classroom and giving students the freedom to choose the most age-appropriate program for them, Santa Cruz Valley has made remarkable progress in closing learning gaps and increasing NWEA™ MAP® Growth™ scores. Furthermore, they’re seeing engaged students who are excited about the entire learning process at a crucial development stage that will set the tone for the rest of their scholastic career.