



How Prodigy engaged Tennessee students with math practice

www.prodigygame.com

April 25, 2019



The challenge

On a daily basis, schools across the United States face the same obstacle: students are struggling to engage with their math lessons.

At Stewarts Creek Elementary School in Smyrna, Tennessee, teachers and administrators knew they needed a fresh approach to math instruction — one that would encourage more practice so students could improve their skills and accurately prepare for the next grade level.

The school had to find a program that could:

- **Be used in classrooms for little to no cost**
- **Make math engaging** for students at each grade level
- **Encourage more math practice** at school *and* at home

The solution

The entire school adopted Prodigy: the free game-based learning platform that makes math fun for millions of 1st-8th graders around the world. Prodigy is adaptive, engaging, and curriculum-aligned to Tennessee State Standards.

Teachers heard about Prodigy and decided to try it with their classrooms. With their teacher accounts, they were given the freedom to:

- Create and manage their classes
- Track student progress instantly
- Differentiate content for individual learning needs
- Align in-game content with math lessons using assignments and plans

After teachers at Stewarts Creek saw success with their Prodigy accounts, the entire school rolled out the program. School leaders were given a school admin account, where they could manage classrooms, track student progress, and access detailed reports on students and classes. Admins and teachers were able to discuss best practices for Prodigy's usage, to help them achieve the most favourable outcomes for students.

How it works

Prodigy is an online role-playing game (RPG) where students' customized characters explore fantasy worlds, answering math questions to "battle" other players. The longer students play, the

more questions they answer. This is why engagement is key to increasing math practice.

Prodigy's team of educators provide content rigor that goes beyond fact fluency, covering DOK 1-3 so students can practice necessary foundational skills and apply their learnings to more complex problems.

The platform's unique tracking tool lets teachers and schools see how often students are playing, how many questions they're answering, and how they're performing for their grade levels.

There's never been a program like it, and I've been in education for 23 years. I've never seen a kid get tired of it. They're always excited and want to do it.

Jill Hines

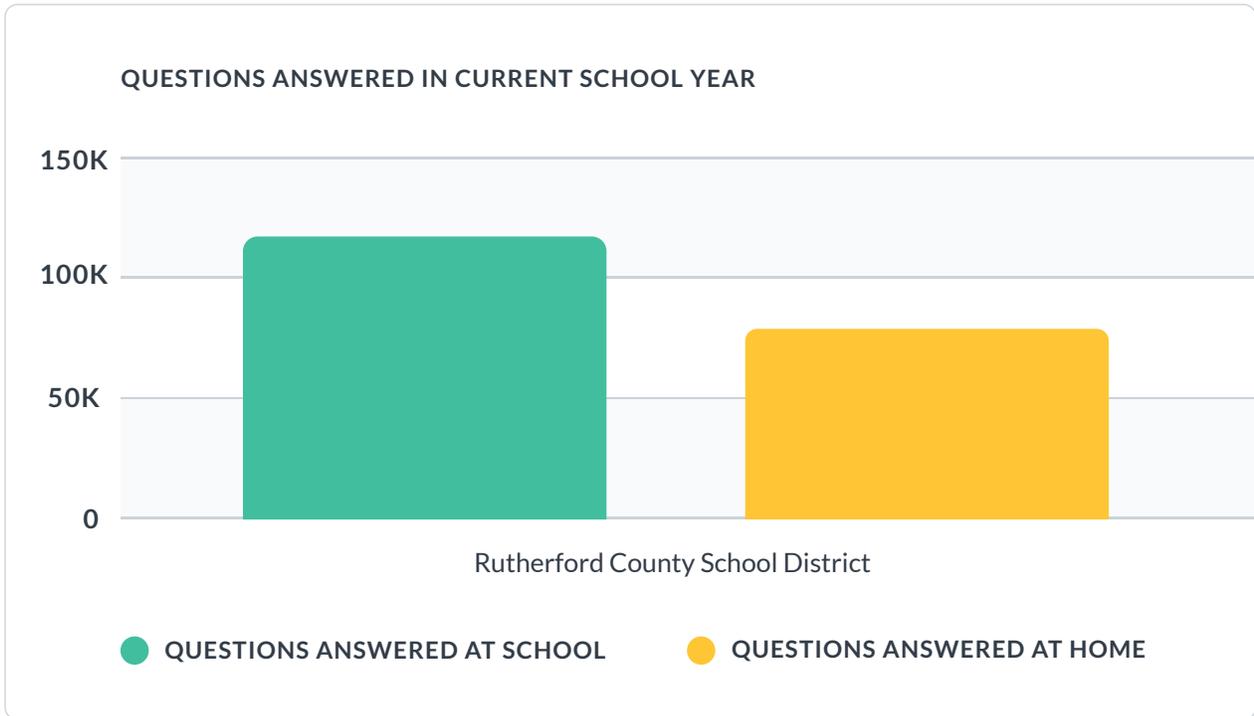
Instructional Technology Coach, Stewarts Creek Elementary

The results

After implementing Prodigy, Stewarts Creek Elementary saw many positive results in the beginning of the 2018/2019 school year.

- Engagement in math increased across all grade levels. Students were hooked on playing Prodigy, resulting in much more math practice and better participation during math lessons.
- Students of all skill-levels were committed to the game and excited to practice math
 - Lower-performing students who were more reluctant about math were engaging with Prodigy's adaptive content and building up confidence in their abilities.
 - Higher-performing students were practicing more challenging content, so they could boost their math progress even further.
- Each student answered around 352 math questions in Prodigy
 - In comparison, the U.S. average is 210 questions per student. Students at Stewarts Creek were getting in lots of extra math practice, compared to the average student.
- Students collectively answered more than 142,000 questions
 - This is much higher than the U.S. average of around 17,000 questions per school.
- 41% of in-game questions were answered at home. This means students were often practicing math outside of school, due to high engagement with the game.

- 41% of in-game questions were answered at home. This means students were often practicing math outside of school, due to high engagement with the game.
 - This percentage is quite high compared to the U.S. average of 30%



You won't believe how engaged your students will be just practicing and learning math that's needed to get to the next grade level

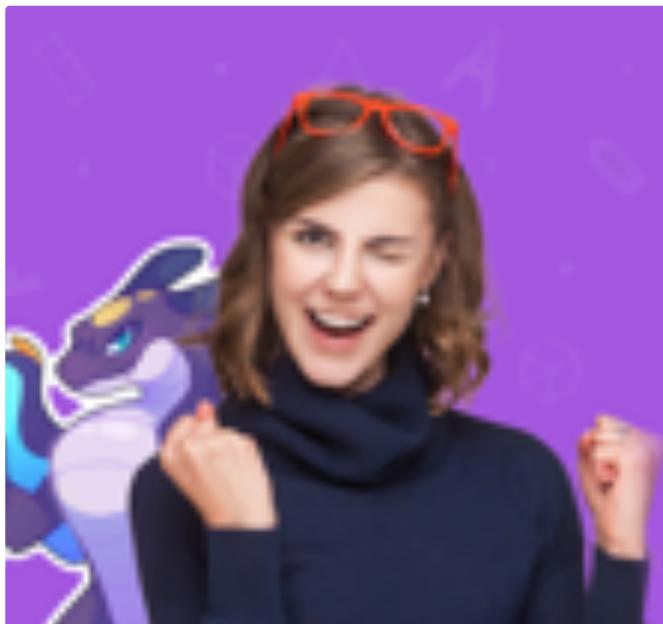
Nichole Walje
 First Grade Teacher, Stewarts Creek Elementary

A Broader look at engagement

Stewarts Creek Elementary saw significant engagement with math in just a few short months — and this isn't the only school in Tennessee that's seen these results. Across the state, teachers are making math fun and students have never been more **motivated to learn**.

In the beginning of the 2018/2019 school year:

- More than 6,000 teachers across the state used Prodigy in their classrooms. Teachers who aligned the game with class curricula created an average of 4.7 in-game assignments each -- 161 of which were created by a single teacher.
 - This is higher than the overall U.S. average of 1.4 assignments per teacher.
- Students answered more than 55 million questions on Prodigy.
 - The U.S. average is around 28 million questions answered per province. This means Tennessee students answered nearly double the average amount of math questions during this time.



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