

Foundation Funded Math Clubs Help Students Gain Individualized Instruction

Projected on the white board at the front of the classroom is the following problem: Evaluate the expression $9 \times (9 \times 7 \div 7)$. Isaac, a fifth grader, begins writing and solving the problem on his personal white board during before-school Math Club at Spring Ridge Elementary.



Spring Ridge student Isaac working on math with teacher Leanna Bral.

Isaac is one of the 42 students at Spring Ridge who attend before-or-after school math club. Throughout the district, approximately 400 students are participating in Reading or Math Clubs funded by the Foundation at the various elementary schools outside of school hours.

This is Isaac's first year in Math Club, and he is already seeing the value of coming before school to get extra assistance. "Math Club is important to me because I just want to get better in math so I can do better in school," he said. "I like the teachers because they're super fun and nice." Other students at Spring Ridge, fourth graders Eliot and Kennedy, have been attending Math Club for three years.

"Sometimes math stresses me out, but Math Club introduces me to things I will do in class, and I

feel a little bit better about what we are going to learn," Kennedy said. She wants to improve her math skills because "math is everywhere and it's so important to learn."

The Elkhorn Public Schools teachers are amazing, but it is difficult to give specialized attention when a teacher has a whole classroom of students. The Math & Reading Clubs provide a smaller learning environment where students get more individualized attention. Through Foundation funding, teachers are paid for time they spend before and after school leading the clubs.

Students recognize how important these clubs are for them, and parents with students in the clubs also appreciate the impact the extra help has on their children's learning. A key theme among parents was the confidence Math & Reading Clubs help to build in their children.

Molly Anderson saw a huge change in her daughter's overall academic performance. "Not only did Addi's math skills improve, but her overall academic performance saw a positive shift,"

Molly said. "The critical thinking and problem-solving skills in Math Club spilled over into other subjects. In addition, the club instilled a sense of discipline in Addi teaching her the importance of practice and hard work to achieve success."

These parent and student testimonials are so powerful! They represent the 400 elementary students in the Elkhorn Public Schools District who need additional instruction in math or reading. Bids For Kids is the main fundraiser for the Math & Reading Intervention program. This year, the event raised more than \$71,000 thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, donors, attendees, and auction participants.

Angela Bell reflects, "When you first find out that your child might not be keeping up in class, it can be kind of devastating as a parent because you just want them to succeed, but what I love about the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation is that they've stepped in to fill that gap."

If you are interested in contributing to our Math & Reading Intervention program, please visit our website to make a donation.



Spring Ridge students Eliot and Kennedy in math club with teacher Emily Haynes.