

Pulaski International School of Chicago



Our School:

- Located in the West Bucktown
- A neighborhood school with an international focus
- 880 students, pre-K-8
- 93.7% low income students
- 24.3% English Language Learners
- 91.5% Hispanic
- Currently at a Level One (Excellent Standing)

Our Story:

Our kids are tech savvy. KIDS are tech savvy. It's what their generation is all about. So why not teach them in their own language?

The iPad technology inherently appeals to our diverse learners: it's visual, it's hands-on, it's auditory; it encompasses the styles of all intelligences and is differentiated at its core.

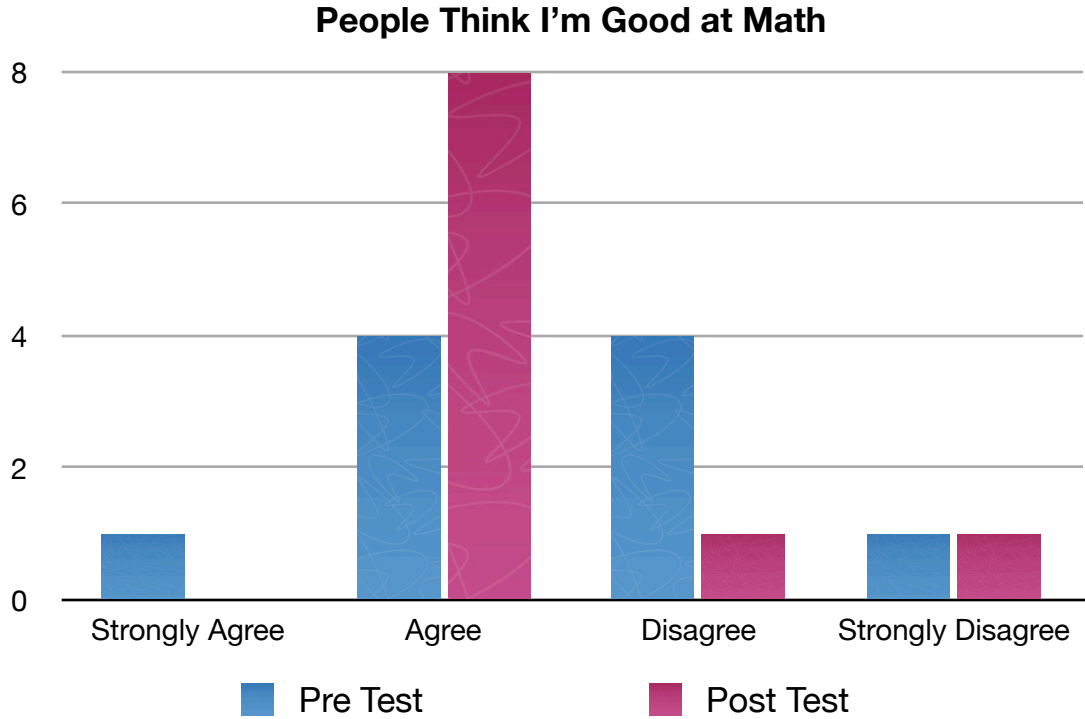
This grant has allowed us to reach our kids through the vehicle they're most familiar with; the dynamic, hands-on, stimulating device that allows them to be directors of their own learning. While we focused our grant on teaching middle school Math, this resource has proven beneficial across the curricula.

Results:

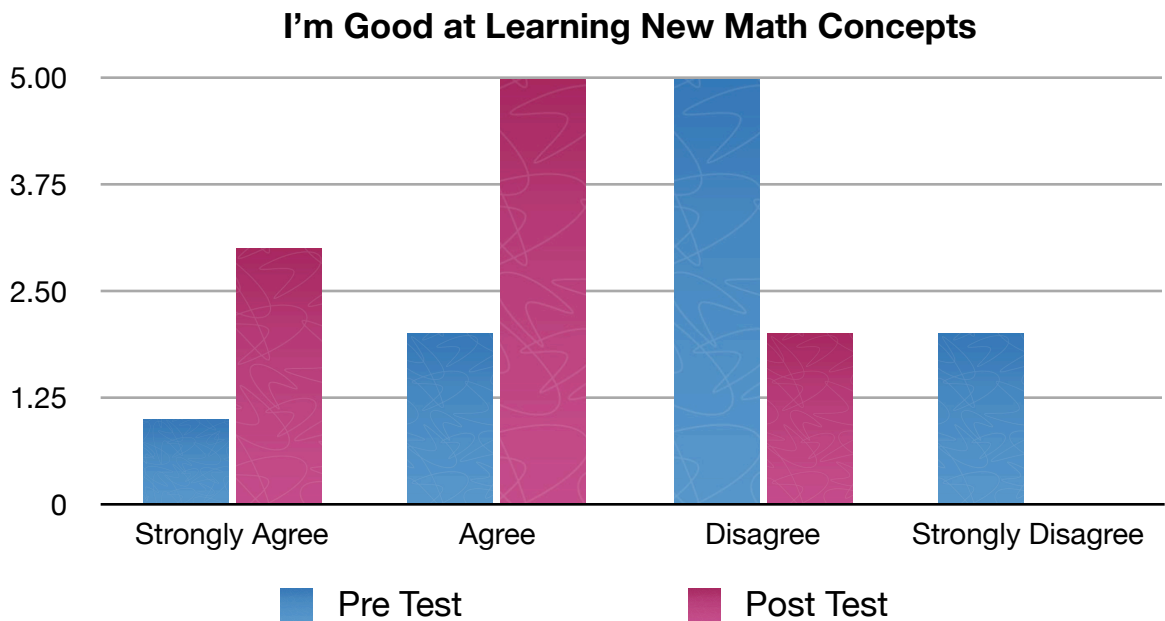
Qualitatively, we have witnessed a marked increase in learning and engagement.

Students were asked to report on their attitudes about Math in several specific areas. The word “iPad” does not appear anywhere on the student survey because we wanted to determine whether integration of iPad technology would increase the students’ sense of Math confidence and enjoyment of the subject area intrinsically.

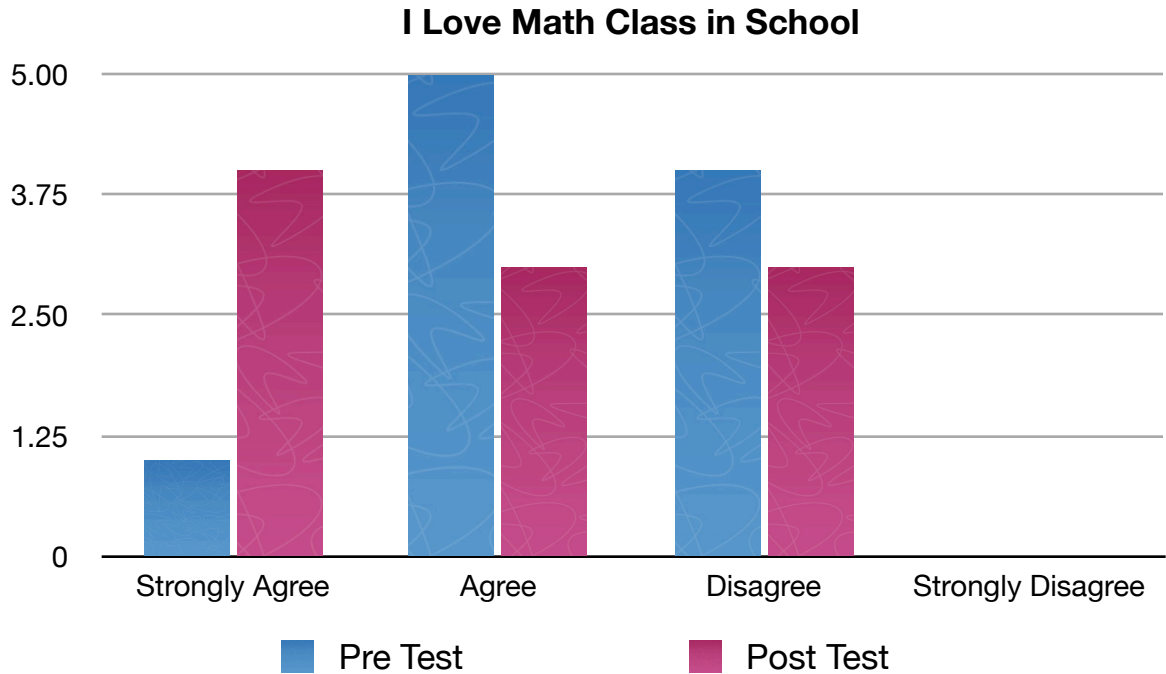
The results are as follows:



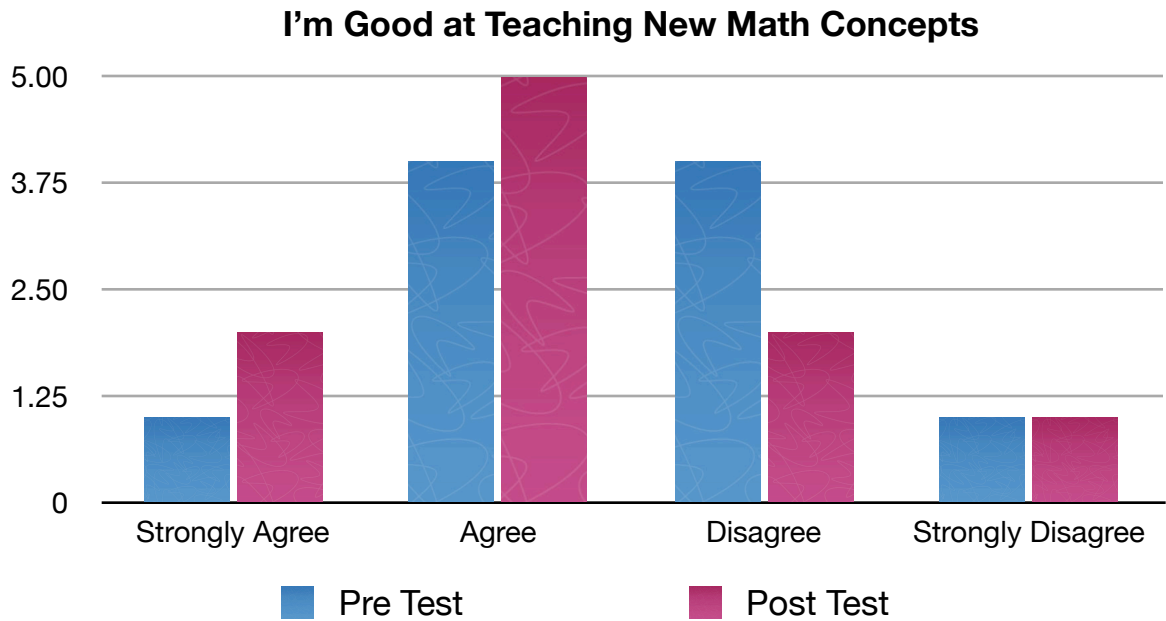
As we see here, many of the students who once disagreed with this positive statement changed their response to “Agree.”



We've often seen even our most talented math students falter when confronted with a new concept. Many of them seem to have the false impression that they are only good at the concepts they've already mastered. As you can see, by the end of the year, many more of our students agreed or strongly agreed that they are good at learning new concepts in Math!



We hoped that kids would simply *like* Math class more with the implementation of this grant. Math tends to be a class many kids assign a love or hate feeling towards, and this can become very rigid by the upper grades. Fortunately, by the end of the year we witnessed a significant growth in attitudes towards agree and strongly agree!



We anticipated that many of our students would find themselves more confident leaders and teachers with the user-friendly iPad at their fingertips. As it turned out, many of our students did develop confidence in being able to teach others what they know! As teachers, we value this skill because reteaching is the best way for our students to retain their knowledge.

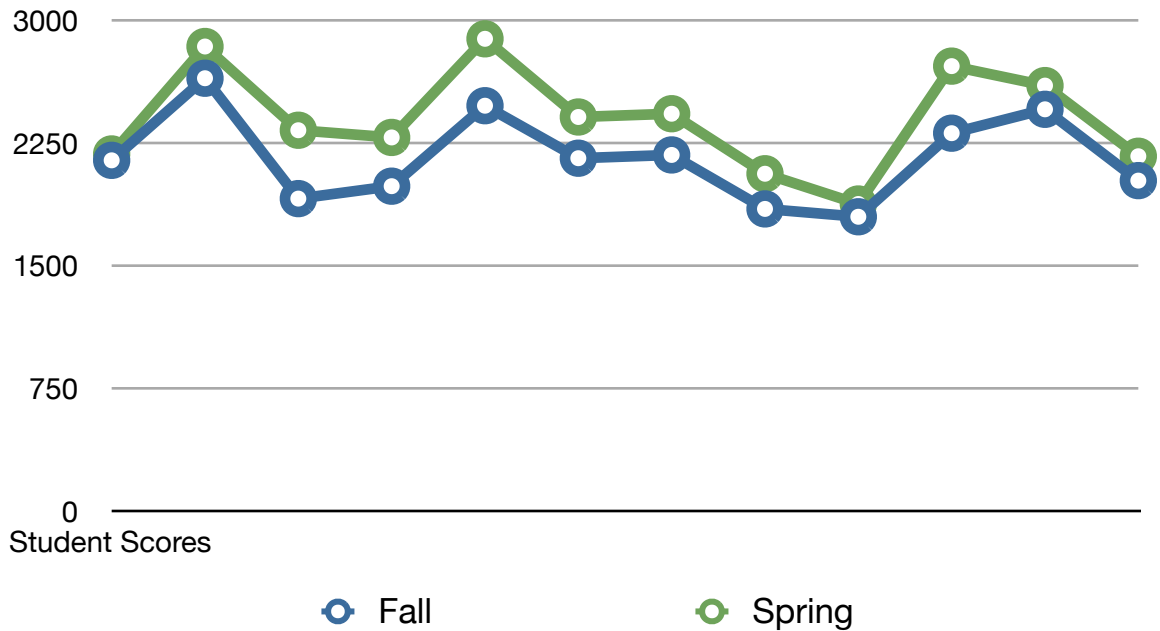
Scantron Data: The Math results from the Fall and Spring Scantron assessments are charted below, with each data point representing a single student in the self-contained special education class:

Reading:

We used the iPads during the Balanced Literacy block in a number of ways. Students struggling with fluency were able to read interactive stories and then record themselves reading aloud. Apps like Opposites and Bluster reinforced concepts such as synonyms, antonyms and rhyming words. We used Show Me to bring vocabulary words to life with images and audio recordings to be shown to the class. Edmodo was an excellent way to quickly generate results of student learning. Students on average increased their reading fluency 2 grade levels in nine months, and their comprehension skyrocketed.

While all CPS students are expected to make progress throughout the course of the school year, 60% of students increased at a rate above the expected growth in Reading.

Student Gains in Reading Scantron Scale Scores

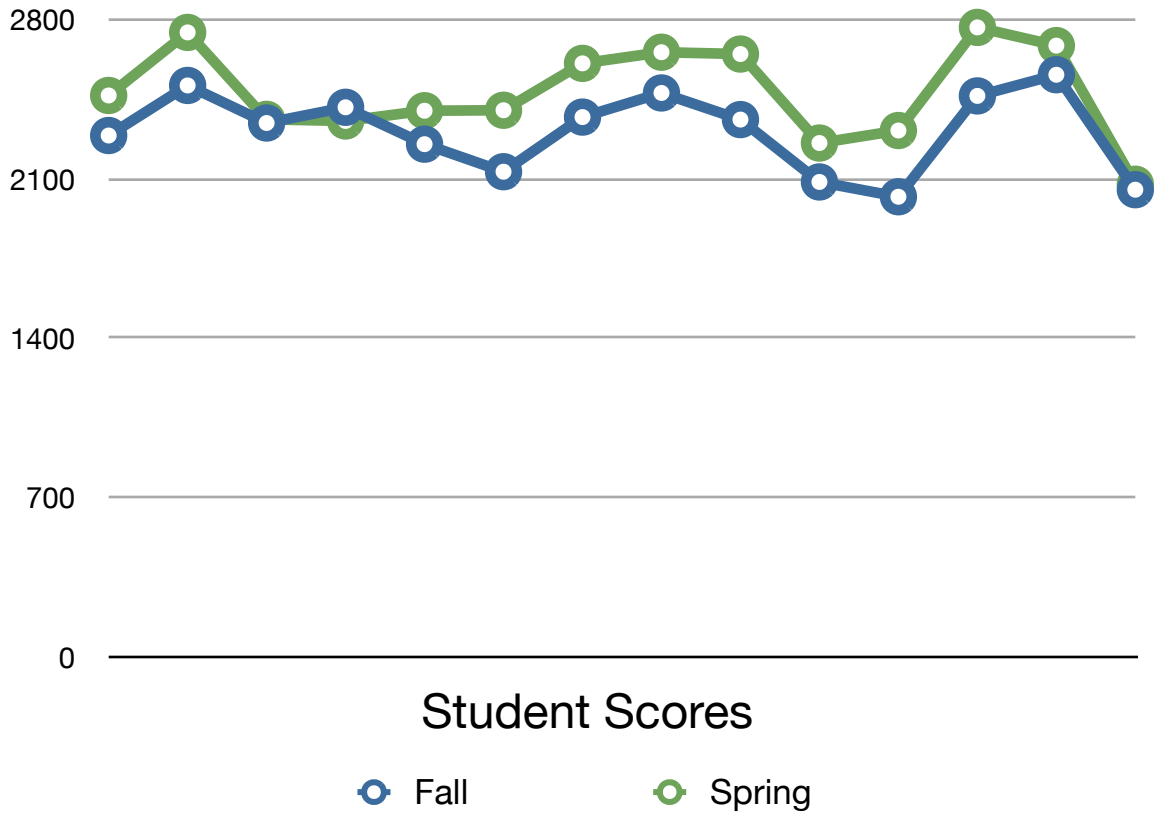


Math:

The iPad allowed us to approach Math in new and dynamic ways. On the most basic level, we were able to reinforce foundational concepts and number sense with popular games like Numbers League, Operation Math and Slice It. On a deeper level, students were able to develop a nuanced understanding of real world math by participating in the Stock Market game. They were able to analyze graphs, create their own and then present their portfolios to their peers.

43% of students improved in Math above the expected rate, and 36% of students achieved far above their expected gains in the Spring Scantron.

Student Gains in Math Scantron Scale Scores



If you have any additional questions, please email us at kahenry@cps.edu or emmcnamara@cps.edu.

We will be happy to share our resources and ideas with anyone who's interested!

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