

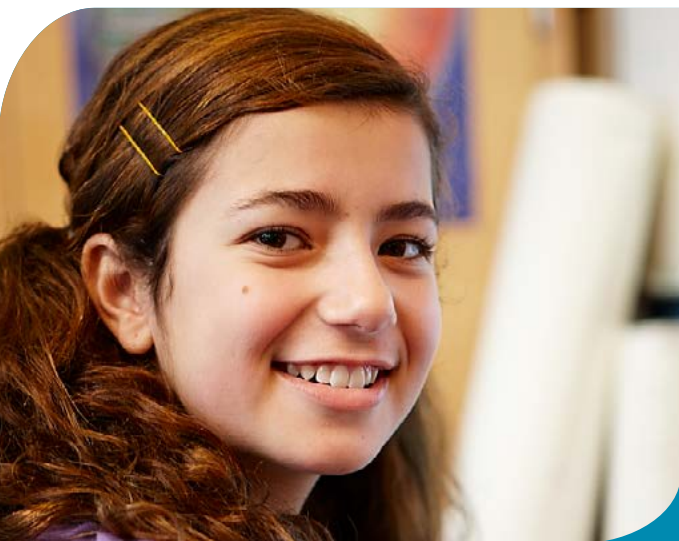
## Customer Spotlight

# Ohio Elementary Schools Use DreamBox to Improve Math Proficiency

DESPITE COVID-19 REMOTE LEARNING, UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS SEE 1.38 GRADE LEVELS OF GROWTH IN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS' MATH COMPREHENSION

### Upper Arlington Schools, Ohio

Upper Arlington Schools is located in Franklin County on the northwest side of Columbus, Ohio. In its five elementary schools, there are 2,762 students and 53 English language learners. With few exceptions, all students use DreamBox Math to complement in-class math learning.



### School District

#### District Serves

- Five elementary schools
- Two middle schools
- One high school
- One early education school

Total Students 6,132

Total Teachers 389

English Language Learners 117

Children with Disabilities 4.3%

The district is unique in that it provides academic options not available in other public schools, beginning with the youngest students. Children can start at the tuition-funded Burbank Early Childhood School. Others choose to attend private preschools. As they progress into elementary school, families may select the informal or contemporary instructional delivery model. In middle schools, students receive meaningful service learning and real-world instructional opportunities to understand the skills it takes to be successful in our fast-changing world. High schoolers may return to the informal learning style in the community school. They may also select from more than 60 advanced placement and international baccalaureate classes.

Whole learning is the focus for the entire district. The strategic plan through 2024 focuses on building on the district's long-running philosophy of educating the whole child in order to make it a daily reality.

Faced with that vision, several years ago, Dr. Debra Amling, instructional leader at Upper Arlington Schools, was determined to find a math program that would benefit the entire district – children, teachers, parents and learning guardians. At the time she started looking, there were no less than 20 math programs throughout the schools. In collaboration with the teaching and learning department, Amling implemented Bridges Math as the district's math curriculum to meet the Common Core State Standards and was on the lookout for a complementary supplemental math program that aligned with Bridges.

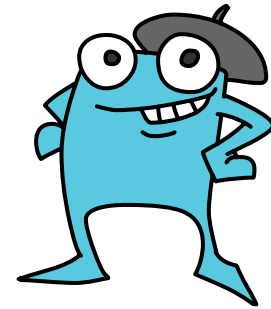
Lindsay Kidwell, 5th grade teacher at Upper Arlington Schools, says, “My philosophy in math is that everything needs to mean something. There has to be a context and a concrete model for [students] to always refer back to, and I feel like DreamBox gives it to them.”

In particular, Lindsay likes the way that it makes students model mathematics, moving them from the concrete toward the abstract, challenging them in different ways to solve math problems. “It’s kind of like DreamBox has been my partner this year, just because of the way school has looked,” she says.

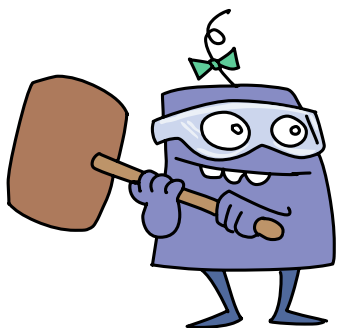
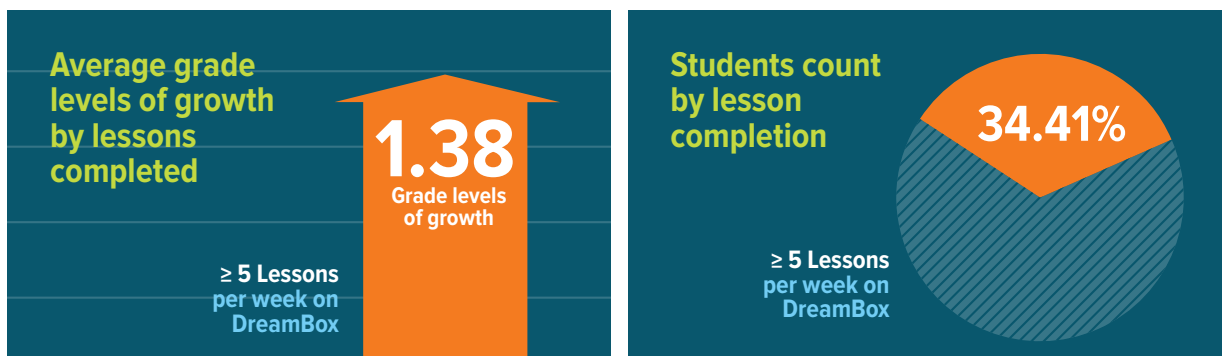
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– Lindsay Kidwell | 5th Grade Teacher | Upper Arlington Schools

When COVID turned in-school learning upside down, DreamBox helped keep students on an even keel. “I couldn’t be happier that we picked DreamBox when we did because, of course, no one knew what was coming in March [2020],” says Amling. “Our teachers were amazing to figure out how to deliver math instruction over Zoom. But it was great to know that our kids were independently having success in math, and that they had something to help build their self-esteem rather than tear it down.”



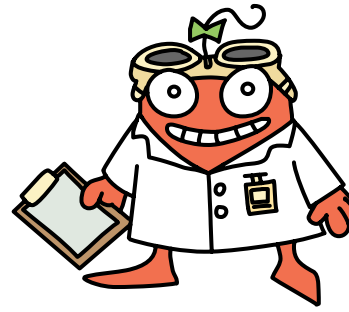
As this graph shows, by the end of April 2021 – in just nine months – students who completed five lessons a week grew their math expertise by 1.38 grade levels.



“I won’t give all the credit to DreamBox, and I also won’t give all the credit to Bridges. But I will tell you, having those two in tandem, I really feel like our kids are stronger problem-solvers than they were before,” says Amling.

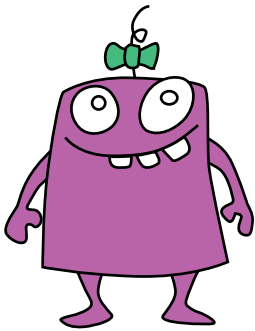
Teachers and students love that DreamBox’s gaming-style program puts math in a context that students can relate to. Instead of just piling on more and more difficult equations – and then taking tests – students have options for solving problems that mean something in their daily lives. Rather than producing anxiety, DreamBox makes math fun as well as stimulating.

Teachers have benefited from DreamBox professional development, as well, according to Amling. Ashley Laver, DreamBox regional account manager (former professional development specialist), helped set the stage for successful implementation and acceptance. “Implementing Bridges and DreamBox at Upper Arlington has been so seamless,” Amling says. “We worked with math liaisons at each grade level as a group to decide how to deliver professional development in DreamBox for teachers at each grade level.”



*“DreamBox has rolled with the times and helped us be really successful. You were so helpful during the rollout of those new apps in the spring, but now, it’s like you’re part of the team.”*

– Teacher | Upper Arlington Schools





Professional development is strong among the teachers at Upper Arlington Schools. Laver, always available to assist, is Amling’s go-to for guidance – and the entire district knows about it. “Everybody, even my boss will say to me, ‘Have you asked your friend [Ashley] at DreamBox about that?’” says Amling. “She’s a wealth of information.”

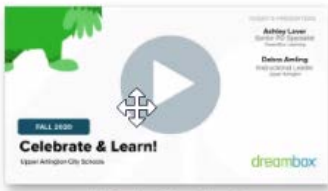
One Upper Arlington Schools teacher, energized by the collaboration between the DreamBox team and the district had this to say, “DreamBox has rolled with the times and helped us be really successful. You were so helpful during the rollout of those new apps in the spring, but now, it’s like you’re part of the team.”

Upper Arlington Schools is innovative in the way they think about professional development, focusing on meeting teachers where they are. The DreamBox professional development team created personalized professional development newsletters that are easily distributed and digestible by teachers.

## Upper Arlington City Schools

November 2020 – Celebrate & Learn!




FALL 2020  
**Celebrate & Learn!**  
Upper Arlington City Schools

(15 min PD video)

Video Highlights:

- Celebration of UA Usage
- Assigning Lessons Aligned with Bridges Units & Modules

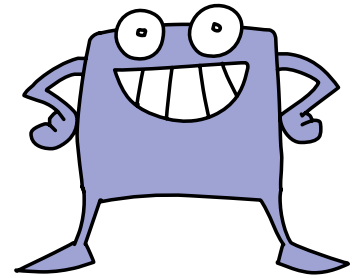
Teacher Student Messaging



Learn how to provide feedback & encouragement using our new messaging feature [here](#). Find this in the **Home** tab on your teacher dashboard.

All grade-level teachers met with math liaisons to learn how to implement DreamBox. In turn, teachers had separate meetings with their intervention staff and the gifted staff to ensure they were in the loop to work with any of their students who would use DreamBox.

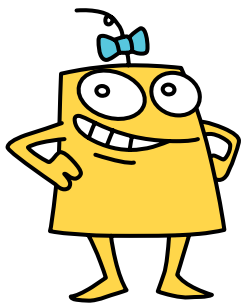
Among the district teachers, professional development is ongoing. Math liaisons are purposely spread out among the five elementary school buildings to work with teachers and provide DreamBox support. According to Amling, each grade level has a liaison that teachers meet with once a quarter. But there may also be a liaison from a different grade level as a go-to, somebody who's more of an expert in each building. Laver credits purposeful planning and two-way communication with DreamBox that helped students and teachers embrace DreamBox. "[Amling and the teachers] were willing partners," Laver says. "They let us in, making it easy to offer training that met the needs of the teachers, and that made all the difference."



To see the larger picture of their classrooms' math progress, teachers favor the Insight Dashboard to easily monitor student proficiency and track student progress against standards. This tool holds a wealth of information, which is key to planning lessons that meet all students' needs. With just a couple of clicks teachers can get a snapshot of individual students' progress as well as class progress. With COVID wreaking havoc for educators, Kidwell notes that without the DreamBox Insight Dashboard this year, her planning and instruction would have been stymied.

*"What's been the most helpful for me is just having the report up-front. I can skim it really quickly and get a lot of information in one place and then immediately use it."*

– Lindsay Kidwell | 5th Grade Teacher | Upper Arlington Schools



However, it also helps parents. For instance, if a parent thinks little Betty needs to be accelerated in her math courses, teachers can show exactly where Betty's skills and gaps are. The Insight Dashboard generates a report for Betty that clearly shows the parent, yes, she's doing well here, but hasn't mastered all the math standards for her grade. Then the teacher can say, "I'll work with her to set the goals to master those standards so she can move forward."

Teaching and learning have been a challenge over 2020 and into 2021. DreamBox has given teachers the information they need to teach all children at their individual levels. But it's also given children the incentive to keep pushing forward and improving their math comprehension.



Read more customer spotlights at  
[DreamBox.com/Customer-Spotlights](https://DreamBox.com/Customer-Spotlights)

