



Assessment
Technology
Incorporated

Great Leadership, Great Gains

With leadership taking a proactive approach to achievement, Columbine saw great gains

Columbine Elementary School
St. Vrain Valley School District
Longmont, Colorado

The percent of students scoring at or above proficient on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) increased 14 percentage points in math and 11 percentage points in reading/English language arts at Columbine Elementary School. This growth is attributed to the hands-on approach to leadership by Columbine’s Principal, Eddie Cloke. Understanding the benefits of Galileo K-12 Online, and with District support, Mr. Cloke began spending instructional time with students and tracked their progress using the tools within Galileo. After gathering and reviewing the results of these efforts, Mr. Cloke states that the data revealed “huge, huge gains,” in the students’ learning. He shared the hands-on approach and results with his staff and they jumped on board. The school continues to see improvement in student scores.

What were the key things that were implemented that you feel are responsible for your successes?

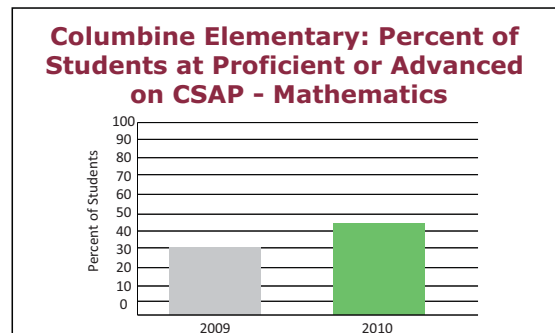
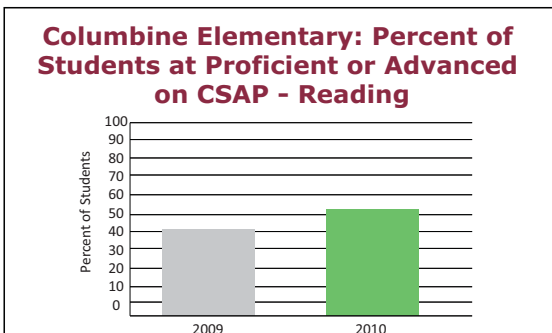
Eddie Cloke – Principal: “There were a number of things we implemented at our school. Last year in particular we put a huge emphasis on student writing because of research we had done showing that writing had impacted all areas of student achievement, especially in poverty ridden schools ... Along with that, we implemented a plan where we had ... collaboration between teachers and built-in time for them to sit together and talk ... **Part of that collaboration was looking at student data, analyzing the data, and making plans and moving forward.**”

What data was used during teacher collaboration?

Eddie Cloke – Principal: “We started looking at our student writing samples, which we do three times a year, and from that point ... looked at some of the results we were getting from the Galileo benchmark assessment in writing. From there we were able to ... develop our own quizzes, tests, and activities using the Galileo system. That allowed us to have quicker access to information, data, and ongoing opportunities to monitor our students.”

How have Columbine teachers responded to Galileo?

Eddie Cloke – Principal: “Galileo has been really good for us ... Our success last year is due to a number of things and one of those things is Galileo. When we started out, our teachers were a little apprehensive because we’ve had things come our way and burn out, but Galileo was not that for us ... **I really believed that [Galileo] could have a positive impact on what we were doing ...** [One] aspect was being able to grade whatever assessments we gave *quickly*. Rather than spending an hour grading we were able to spend five minutes grading and an hour analyzing. That was very beneficial for my staff. They began to see the impact and go on to the system and see the bank of questions and how it aligns to CSAP [Colorado Student Assessment Program]. They began to [reach a] comfort level to create their own [assessments].”



Galileo K-12 Online

To read the full Q&A with St. Vrain Valley School District staff visit <http://ati-online.com/success/ColumbineQA.html>

How did you identify students needing additional instructional assistance and what are the implemented interventions?

Eddie Cloke – Principal: “One of the things we were able to do, for example, was to show teachers the impact [Galileo] could have. And so I started working with a small group of students in the area of math who needed some additional support. We created some online quizzes for them using Galileo. We would do a pretest, look at how they scored, and then I would center my instruction around that, and do a posttest. **We saw huge, huge gains in the students’ growth** from just that practice. With the ease of using the system we were able to identify what the kids needed basically through the use of pretests, etc.”

The data increases are incredible. I’ve been in data for a long time and it’s like nothing I’ve ever seen.
-Tori Teague, Executive Director Assessment and Curriculum

Any additional thoughts?

Lauren Eker – Assessment Coordinator: “I think Mr. Cloke’s leadership is truly why Galileo was so successful at Columbine ... Mr. Cloke was at the forefront of our District in really training his staff and becoming very involved.”

Tori Teague – Executive Director Assessment and Curriculum: “I think that can’t be stressed enough because where we’re successful in our schools is where the principal has really been a person who has been up front leading, showing, and helping ... **Mr. Cloke showed how he can make a difference with kids just on their lunch hour and so teachers really jumped on board.**”

Regina Renaldi – Executive Director Title I: “**The empowerment of these teachers is a strong key.** Teachers are taking responsibility for students growing ... they are very enthusiastically looking at all of the data points to make certain the students are growing ... Students who aren’t proficient are moving towards proficiency and I think it really is a culmination of all the work that’s been done and it’s continuing to show growth. **This wasn’t a one year wonder. I think we’re going to continue to see growth at this school because now they’re focused in terms of data.**”

School Accomplishments

- 2004 and 2005 Governor’s Distinguished Improvement Award winner.
- Mathematics, Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program for all students named the top program in Colorado.
- A volunteer Parent Room with more than 270 volunteers donating more than 10,000 hours each year through tutoring, mentoring, and family assistance.

Tori Teague – Executive Director Assessment and Curriculum: “I can’t emphasize enough how far this school has come. Just a few years ago it was a struggling school with low performance. And they have turned the corner in the time they’ve implemented Galileo, and knowing that’s certainly not the only thing, but it’s been huge. The data increases are incredible. I’ve been in data for a long time and it’s like nothing I’ve ever seen.”

About Columbine Elementary School: A 2004 and 2005 Governor’s Distinguished Improvement Award winner, Columbine Elementary School continues to focus on each student reaching his/her full potential while striving to meet the No Child Left Behind and Adequate Yearly Progress benchmarks. Specifically, Columbine’s goal is to raise student performance levels in reading and writing to 80% or higher in the proficient or advanced category on the CSAP assessment. (www.stvrain.k12.co.us/district/about.php)

About ATI: Assessment Technology Incorporated through Galileo K-12 Online provides an easy-to-use, fully integrated Instructional Improvement System that combines the strength of research and the power of innovation to assist educators in promoting

student mastery of local and state standards. Galileo’s patented technology provides customized benchmark, formative, interim/end-of-course, curriculum-based, and placement assessments. Galileo reporting tools coupled with curriculum and instructional dialog tools make it possible to continuously link information about student learning to instructional planning and teaching to promote standards mastery.

Useful Resources

- *St. Vrain Valley School District:* www.stvrain.k12.co.us
- *Colorado Department of Education:* www.cde.state.co.us
- *Assessment Technology Incorporated and Galileo K-12 Online* ati-online.com
- *Government Accountability Offices* gao.gov
- *National Center for Educational Statistics* nces.ed.gov
- *United States Department of Education* ed.gov

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