



KILGOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cincinnati, Ohio

Waterford
Early
Learning™

“Waterford Early Learning has increased the language arts skills of our primary students. I would definitely recommend the program both as a superintendent and a parent whose child enjoyed and increased her skills using the program.”

— **Mary A. Ronan**
superintendent
Cincinnati Public Schools

“The Waterford Early Reading program supports our school in providing a strong foundation for our K-2 students, year after year, and is a cornerstone to our school community’s success.”

— **Angela Cook**
principal

“I have seen a big jump in my daughter’s interest in reading because of her time on Waterford Early Learning.”

— **PTA representative**
Kilgour Elementary

PROFILE

School District: Cincinnati Public School District

District Enrollment: 33,8881 students

School Enrollment: 560 students

Grades: K-6

Free/Reduced Price Lunch: 16%

Ethnicity:

- 65% Caucasian
- 21% African American
- 9% Multi-racial
- 3% Asian
- 2% Hispanic

CHALLENGE

In 2002-03 the Ohio Department of Education released academic content standards for language arts and mathematics subject areas. Cincinnati Public Schools adopted the state’s standards and adjusted their core curriculum to align with the state. As a part of the Cincinnati Public School District, Kilgour Elementary School adopted these standards as well and has set high goals for its students. They noticed a trend with their youngest students, low reading scores on state and school tests. Kilgour Elementary needed a resource to help their kindergarten through 2nd grade students develop their reading skills and improve test scores.

SOLUTION

In 2001 Kilgour Elementary, using funds raised by their dedicated PTA, purchased Pearson Digital Learning’s Waterford Early Learning™ courseware, specifically for reading. Then in 2009 they purchased the math and science component. They have implemented the program on 26 computers in their computer lab specifically designated for the younger students in the school. Each year some 240 kindergarten through 2nd grade students rotate into the lab five days per week working on the program during 25 minute sessions building their math and reading skills.

Waterford Early Learning assesses each student and starts them on the appropriate course for their skill level. The program gives each student individualized instruction, and students progress at their own pace. If a

Continues



SOLUTION (Continued)

student masters concepts easily the courseware will scaffold to more rigorous content; yet if the student is struggling the program will guide them through until they reach mastery.

Teachers and the lab manager pull reports regularly to review student progress and identify areas where they need further instruction. Teachers can adjust their classroom schedule or small group sessions to focus on areas where the students need more help.

RESULTS

The students are very engaged with the program and enjoy it. Lab Coordinator Chris Carlson explains, "The children really enjoy working with Waterford Early Learning. I often here them say, 'No, don't stop our session, don't stop the computers Mr. Carlson!' They don't want to stop after their session is over."

Student test scores reflected their progress. Before using Waterford Early Learning the average reading test score was 68 percent proficient. After just one year of using the program test scores increased on average 20 percent. As the chart below shows, reading test scores for the last three years have consistently remained greater than 90 percent proficient across all three grade levels. The math component of Waterford was implemented in 2009. The chart below shows the 13 percent increase in test scores and on average 90 percent are reaching the proficiency level on the state assessment tests.

"Kilgour Elementary School received the rating of "Excellent with Distinction" by the Ohio Department of Education on the Ohio State Report Card for the 2007-2008 school year and again in 2008-2009. We are the first Cincinnati public school to receive such an honor," said Angela Cook, principal at Kilgour Elementary School.

READING: Percentage of students scoring at and above proficiency or on track.

State Diagnostic Assessments	2007-2008 School Year	2008-2009 School Year	2009-2010 School Year
Kindergarten	91	95	98
First Grade	97	97	95
Second Grade	96	94	97

MATH: Percentage of students scoring at and above proficiency or on track.

State Diagnostic Assessments	2007-2008 School Year	2008-2009 School Year	2009-2010 School Year
Kindergarten	86	98	93
First Grade	80	82	95
Second Grade	74	82	85

"Students at Kilgour look forward to their sessions in the Waterford Lab. The program does a great job presenting important concepts to students and the interactive activities really keeps the students engaged. My students love to share the connections that they make with the program and the real world!"

— **Chris Carlson**
technology coordinator

"I give monthly tours at Kilgour and prospective parents are always impressed when we tour the Waterford Lab. Children are singing, typing and fully engaged in this self-paced program."

All three of my children loved the Waterford Lab at Kilgour! This computer training encouraged their interest in technology by using games and songs to teach concepts. They still sing some of the songs today!"

— **Lori Raser**
PTA president

"The students love going to the lab!"

— **Michelle Cosmah**
1st grade teacher