

Press Release

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Math Scores on the Rise

Nichols Sawmill Elementary at 100% on STAAR

Magnolia, Texas, December 8, 2015

When you walk down the halls of Nichols Sawmill Elementary School, you hear the excited chatter of students going to lunch or the playground, and you also hear something unusual: you hear kids talking about math. This is the third year teachers have implemented a math program called *Stepping Stones*, which aligns with how children naturally learn. Erin Vance, the school's principal, says the program has "increased teachers' ability to help children learn conceptually." This program helps young students gain confidence with number sense while gradually introducing symbols and math concepts.

Nichols Sawmill has evidence that this approach is working. Last year, they saw improvements in math scores for all *Stepping Stones* classes, with one third-grade class scoring 100% on the Texas STAAR test, a rigorous academic performance exam. "When we started, we didn't even think this was possible," said Susie Johnson, District Director of Math. "It is definitely the most exciting thing that happened."

Conceptual understanding engenders mathematical creativity. *Stepping Stones* demonstrates there is often more than one way to solve a problem. Principal Vance said that, compared to archaic teaching that focused on rote memorization and algorithms, "conceptual learning has been amazing to watch."

About **ORIGO Education**

ORIGO Education provides customers with a complete education solution by combining an innovative range of elementary mathematics products with quality professional development. ORIGO demonstrates a commitment to excellence by creating resources that inspire and empower both teachers and students. ORIGO's web-based program, *Stepping Stones*, is correlated to the TEKS. This world-class mathematics program, with embedded professional development, seamlessly blends digital and print resources to help students gain a deeper understanding of mathematics. For more information, visit origoeducation.com.

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