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Curriculum that clicks

Below is an excerpt from the article "Curriculum that clicks" recently published in the St. Petersburg Times about **ACALETICS®**. **ACALETICS®** is a comprehensive supplemental math program that has been highly successful in boosting student performance for over 18 years.

With Karley as but one example of success, Chocachatti teachers are singing the praises of the Lindamood-Bell reading method. Principal Michael Tellone guessed that the program will expand over time, as the strategies "just make such doggone good sense."

Educators are saying much the same about **Acaletics**, a math instruction program that has boosted student performance at Moton, Eastside and, most recently, Pine Grove elementary schools.

"It's a way to make challenging math more accessible and more fun," Moton teacher Phyllis Haas said, after leading a fourth-grade class through a noisy math contest.

"**Acaletics** has just simply opened a lot of students to see success they may not have seen."

With students held to ever-rising state and national standards, local schools are always on the lookout for better ways to help.

All three schools using **Acaletics** improved their FCAT math performance among third-graders. Moton and Eastside, which have used the program more than one year, have seen steady increases in children scoring at the top levels.

Originally used just for third through fifth grades at Moton, **Acaletics** quickly is taking off in Hernando County.

Moton, now in its third year with the program, has extended it to first- and second-graders. Eastside adopted **Acaletics** last year, Pine Grove joined this year and five more elementary schools are slated to adopt it next year.

Key to the program are regular timed tests that cover all five FCAT math skills - number sense, measurement, geometry, algebraic thinking and data analysis.

A highlight for the students is "quick picks." At the start of each math class, the children must complete five problems aligned with the five FCAT skills.

"We practice math problems, so testing is easier," said Timothy Robbia. "Math is easy, and Mrs. Haas makes it real fun," added his classmate, Edward Williams

Haas said the program has boosted the level of math instruction at Moton to the point that young children use a sophisticated math vocabulary that she did not hear when she joined the school four years ago.

"I will always use this format, it works so well," the 24-year teaching veteran said.



[Times photo: Maurice Rivenbark]

From left, Hanna Smith, 9, Kristy Madden, 10, Allie Bennett, 10, and Deonne Garrett, 10, work on a set of math problems. Students in Phyllis Haas' math class work in teams to solve problems that they copy from the chalkboard. Bennett is looking at the board.