



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Goodnight Middle School Targets Improved Math Results

HELP Math for ELL and Special Needs Program Key Element of Their RTI Program

Carbondale, Colorado – March 31, 2011 – Goodnight Middle School serves 6th through 8th graders in Texas' San Marcos Consolidated School District. The school's 'free and reduced lunch' population is close to 70%. This year Goodnight implemented several new Response-to-Intervention (RTI) initiatives selecting **Digital Directions International's HELP Math for ELL and Special Needs** Program for the math component. *HELP Math* is used in multiple regular and intervention programs including RAPs, AIM High, Saturday School, PM After School, In School Suspension, and even the District's Alternative School program.

RAP is short for Reading And Planning. Every student in the school of approximately 900 has 40 minutes of RAP Tutorial each day to read or obtain extra help. Over one-third of the school rotates between math and language arts interventions during RAP time. These students spend at least 30 minutes each week with the online *HELP Math* program improving their math skills. Students learn and practice in areas specific to their individual needs, since *HELP Math* can be customized for each student using past and/or practice assessments.

AIM High provides additional intervention to another 160 students in smaller groups of 15 to 16 students. These students spend 45 minutes every other day with *HELP Math* working hard, yet having fun, all the while improving necessary math skills.

Ms. Arlene Hooper, the 8th grade AIM HIGH math teacher is very impressed with the effectiveness of *HELP Math* with her students and said, "Since October I have found the program to assist students with the gaps in fundamentals they have. Students are able to work at their own level and pace which has resulted in a higher level of confidence in math. My students regularly comment how they finally understand a concept after using *HELP Math*. I would highly recommend *HELP Math* to any schools struggling to effectively teach math."

Saturday School and PM After School are extended day programs at Goodnight to reach additional students in need of extra interventions. During this time *HELP Math* is once again employed for students in need of more math support.

"We even have students who are in our in-school suspension room work on *HELP Math*", said Steve Dow, Principal at Goodnight Middle School. "We use *HELP Math* everywhere we can at Goodnight. Pre-AP students are encouraged to use it for enrichment activities. I love the fact that our students can access *HELP Math* at home. Plus our teachers can track the usage of

individual students to ensure they are doing the lessons assigned. We are looking forward to seeing the effect *HELP Math* has on math scores at the end of the year.”

Digital Directions International (DDI) is the creator of *HELP Math for ELL and Special Needs*, a web-based math intervention for ELL and other struggling learners. *HELP Math* is ideal for inclusive classrooms because it is able to differentiate instruction and create individualized learning pathways based on the specific background knowledge and academic vocabulary that students need to reach grade-level proficiency in math. The intervention enables teachers to effortlessly target and fill the specific learning gaps of their students. Gold standard research has proven the effectiveness of *HELP Math* in improving the math achievement of ELL and other students with math difficulties.

“It is great to see a school incorporate the use of *HELP Math* as extensively as Goodnight Middle School,” said John Ramo, CEO of *Digital Directions International Inc.* “Research has proven that *HELP Math for ELL and Special Needs* makes a difference in students’ math ability. I am looking forward to following the increase in math scores at Goodnight.”

To view a demonstration of ***HELP Math for ELL and Special Needs*** visit this link:
<http://www.helpprogram.net/shortdemo/>

About the *HELP Math Program*

HELP (Help for English Language Proficiency) MATH for ELL and Special Needs is a web-based math intervention designed to address the needs of both English Language and other struggling learners to reach proficiency. Developed according to Sheltered Instruction principles, *HELP Math* is proven effective for students in grades 3-8 who need to develop the academic language and concepts in the math content area. *HELP Math* is the only multimedia, internet-delivered math program that embeds research-based principles found to be successful for ELL and special needs content area achievement. Visit <http://helpprogram.net> to learn more.

About DDI

Digital Directions International, Inc. is a socially-responsible, educational technology pioneer and publisher of digital educational content focused on developing and co-distributing online supplemental and educational intervention software products in mathematics. DDI is a thought-leader in developing solutions that address the unique requirements ELL and special needs students have in learning math and has been awarded several Federal Grants to continue their cutting edge research.

HELP Math for ELL and Special Needs is distributed in the U.S. by Academic Business Advisors. Please contact Alan Stern at ABA for more information;
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