Knowre's 'Walk Me Through' feature is changing the face of math intervention classes

The Challenge

Rosalind Kline is a math teacher and intervention specialist at Hinsdale South High School. Her Tier 2 or Tier 3 students have significant deficiencies in their foundational skills that prevent them from being successful in grade-level math classes.

Past experiences working with digital math tools led to frustration. These programs supported students through written or video explanations. When a student struggled with a problem, the program would show the same explanation over and over again, which was neither helpful nor engaging if a student didn't get the explanation the first time. Thus, Rosalind sought out a program that could provide corrective instruction instead of reteaching

Discovering Knowre

How did you evaluate Knowre?

When I initially came across Knowre, my first reaction was that the program looked fun! After reading Knowre's White Papers, a lightbulb went off in my head. What my students really needed was a program that could corrective instruction on algebra building blocks that prepared them to master top-level concepts. It seemed like Knowre might directly meet that need.

I decided to evaluate Knowre through an extended trial. During this time, my students really engaged with the program. They made significant gains on their MAP scores, which prompted my principal to review the data. The district then asked for a presentation. As a result of the success in my classroom, Knowre was made available for all Tier 2 intervention classes across the district for the 2016-2017 school year!

Knowre in Action

How do you implement Knowre in your classes?

I dedicate one class period (50 minutes) per week to Knowre. Students work independently on lessons that line up with what I'm currently teaching in class. If they don't finish the lesson in class, they must finish it for homework. Using the real-time data in the Teacher Dashboard,

HINSDALE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

School Facts
- 9-12 Public School
- Located in Darien, Illinois
- Serves 1,526 students
- 27.9% of student are on free or reduced lunch

Goal
- Provide corrective instruction for struggling Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention students

Results
- Students showed an average growth of 10.56 points on their MAP scores over the 2015-2016 school year.
- Seven students whose growth was greater than 14 points, including 4 students in the 20-point range.

I am able to identify which questions the majority of the class is struggling with. We then go over the problem as a class on the projector.

I also use Knowre with students that come to me to for help before class, after class, and during study hall. I choose and assign them lessons from across Knowre's four curricula as "MAP Gap" work. Because these lessons are not currently being taught in class, the goal is to help students review and reinforce previously taught lessons and skills.

How has Knowre impacted you or the way you teach your math classes?

Knowre allows me to shift time away from my traditional classroom practice in favor of student-directed learning. 20% of my direct instruction time (one day a week) has been replaced with students working independently.

Knowre empowers my students. When they are struggling with a problem, they know to use the Walk Me Through first before asking me for help. The Walk Me Through breaks problems down into their more manageable sub-skills, just as I would if I was working with the student individually. Students can also watch the in-step videos for additional, targeted instruction. I further cultivate independent learning skills in class by encouraging students to work with their neighbors and by asking leading questions instead of going straight to the answer.

Knowre also gives me the ability to differentiate instruction according to my goals. It's so different from other programs where I have to wait for success in one unit before being able to move on. With Knowre, I am able to choose and assign lessons from across four curricula. Thus, I assign different lessons in different orders to different students. It's more challenging for me, but this way, I know students are working on the content that will have the greatest impact on addressing their knowledge gaps.

How do your students engage with Knowre?

First of all, Knowre's interface is very intuitive. My students were able to get started right away and I did not have to train them at all. Knowre's achievement system, which rewards students up to three "coins" for correctly answered questions, helps with student engagement. I am also able to maximize engagement by holding in-class "coin competitions," where I offer students prizes based on how many coins they have earned.

Students become very competitive over earning coins, which is a joy to see! They'll get excited and start yelling at the computer and at "the man" (Knowre's math coach, Dr. Doug) if they lose coins. Luckily, Knowre always offers students the option to retry a question with different values so that students have the opportunity to earn all three coins per question. It's great way to motivate students to answer questions correctly and encourage them to retry problems if they didn't get it the first time.

The Result

How has using Knowre impacted your students?

My students showed tremendous growth in their MAP scores over the course of the 2015-2016 school year with an average growth of 10.56 points. There were 7 students whose growth was greater than 14 points, including 4 students in the 20-point range. Students are incredibly motivated by Knowre and are very eager to monitor their progress. They saw true results from their efforts reflected in their MAP score progress and that made them want to work even harder.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

If I could sum it up in one sentence, "Knowre has changed the face of Tier 2 classes across our entire district."