



Hear from our Sumdog schools: **Shawn O'Neil at Amerigo A Anastasia School**

Shawn O'Neil is a 5th Grade Math, Science and Social Studies teacher at Amerigo A Anastasia School in Long Branch, New Jersey in the US.

About the school

Shawn O'Neil is a 5th Grade Math, Science, and Social Studies teacher at Amerigo A Anastasia School in New Jersey. The school is an elementary institution with a diverse student population, including 27.7% English Language Learners (ELL) and 55.2% economically disadvantaged students. The school has been using Sumdog for approximately 12-14 years.

Delivering personalized learning to students

I first discovered Sumdog in 2012 while searching for an engaging way to get my students excited about math. After researching online learning games, I introduced Sumdog to my class, and it quickly became a favorite. Over the years, other teachers at my school have also adopted it, recognizing its value as an engaging and effective educational tool.

Our school really promotes small groups and centers. So I usually teach a whole group lesson for 20 minutes, then I will break the class into smaller groups. In my math classes, I use Sumdog as an independent learning center that students rotate through during small group instruction. The adaptive learning feature allows each student to work at their own level, while I also assign specific skills to reinforce classroom lessons.

Whether practicing multiplication facts or working on decimals, Sumdog provides a differentiated learning experience tailored to individual student needs.

Supporting math practice with targeted work

I regularly assign practice work on Sumdog based on the topics my students are learning in class. If a student struggles with a particular skill, such as addition and subtraction, I can assign focused tasks to provide extra practice. By combining whole-class assignments with individualized learning, Sumdog helps ensure that my students receive targeted support where they need it most.

One of my favorite features is the ability to reward students with coins for their hard work. I use this as an incentive to encourage engagement, especially for students who put in extra effort. For example, I might surprise a student with bonus coins for consistently working on a challenging skill, providing motivation and positive reinforcement.

Engaging students in math learning

Sumdog has become an integral part of my classroom routine. I have created interactive competitions, such as the Chef and Street Racer bracket challenges, where students compete against each other in a fun, academically relevant way.

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The competition fosters excitement, teamwork, and engagement, with students cheering each other on throughout the challenge.

Beyond competitions, my students love the engaging games and the ability to see their progress on the school and world leaderboards. The leaderboard resets each month, providing fresh motivation for them to improve their accuracy and climb the rankings.

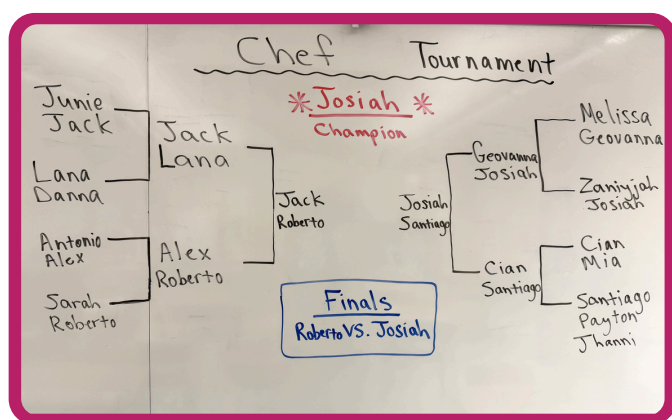
Sumdog's impact

Without a doubt the greatest impact has been on my students' attitudes towards math. I can assign even the most challenging topics, and my students tackle them enthusiastically simply because it's on Sumdog. They're so engaged and having fun that they don't even realize how hard they're working.

Some of my students struggle with negative attitudes toward math, learning, and even school itself. By using Sumdog, I've seen a real shift in their mindset - it's helping to transform their approach to learning.

Sumdog has also proven valuable during indoor recess periods, where students voluntarily choose to continue working on math activities. Seeing students opt to play Sumdog during their free time is a testament to the platform's ability to make learning enjoyable and rewarding.

With years of positive experiences using Sumdog, I continue to rely on it as a key tool for reinforcing math skills, engaging students, and fostering a love of learning.



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