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## Welcome Back!

Welcome to the beginning of another fantastic school year! Thank you for inviting us into your classroom, and please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you make this school year the best one yet!

## *\*Reminder\* for Android and iPad Classrooms*

If you have iPad or Android devices in your classroom, download the **FREE** Puffin Academy app. It will allow you to access StarrMatica and many other Flash-based websites on your devices.

1. Download the Puffin Academy app.
2. Open the app and search for StarrMatica.
3. Click the StarrMatica icon. When the StarrMatica Puffin page opens, click the link to our website: [www.starrmatica.com](http://www.starrmatica.com)
4. Login as usual and enjoy!

## *#fridayfavorites*

There is so much content in StarrMatica's library that it is hard to find time to explore it all. We wanted to draw your attention to some of the best content you may not have yet come across. That's why every Friday this school year, we'll again be sharing a #fridayfavorite on Twitter and Facebook.

Friday favorites will be pieces of content that we believe are unique, interesting, and particularly useful. Content shared will be across all subjects and grade levels, so there will be something for everyone. So if you haven't yet, [Like us on Facebook](#) and [Follow us on Twitter](#).

We don't want you to miss the fun!



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# *How to Use Digital Content for Math Instruction*

No matter what math curriculum you use, there are many ways you can integrate digital content into your math instruction.

## **Use manipulatives as whole class teaching tools or for individual student inquiry**

There are hundreds of math manipulatives in StarrMatica's library that can be used to help students visualize concepts. Some teachers use them for whole class demonstrations with interactive whiteboards and some have students access them on laptops and tablets.

Want something other than fraction bars? Try using Kids and Cookies to introduce fractions in the context of a problem. *How can 3 children share 4 cookies and still be friends when they are finished?*

<http://www.teacherlink.org/KidsAndCookies/>

Want to try a new place value manipulative? Try using this place value machine to let your students discover what happens to a number's place value when you multiply or divide by 10.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/teachers/ks2\\_activities/maths/activities/thenumbersystem.swf](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/teachers/ks2_activities/maths/activities/thenumbersystem.swf)

Are your students losing interest in your ten frame? Try using bears in a boat to catch their attention!

[http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common\\_assets/mathematics/ebook\\_assets/vmf/VMF-Interface.html](http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/mathematics/ebook_assets/vmf/VMF-Interface.html)

## **Use content to remediate for students needing extra assistance**

If you need to keep up with a pacing guide, yet several students are struggling to understand a concept, it can be difficult challenge. You can share content from StarrMatica's library to help specific students with a previous lesson while moving on to the next lesson with the entire class. Students can access the content you have shared in their individual digital backpacks during independent work time on computers or at home with their parents.

For example, if a student is struggling with identifying angles, you might share an animated tutorial with them as a review:

<http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/jams/math/geometry/classify-angles.htm>

Next, they can practice what they have learned with this interactive game:

[http://www.childu.com/sample\\_act/34math\\_backatyou.html](http://www.childu.com/sample_act/34math_backatyou.html)

**For three more great ideas about how to use digital content in your math classroom, check out our blog post here:** <http://blog.starrmatica.com/using-digital-content-to-supplement-your-math-textbook/>