



ANKENY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION...BY PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST!

TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

310 N.W. School Street
Ankeny, Iowa 50023-1738
515-965-9670 ♦ 515-965-9672 (Fax)
Tiffany O'Hara, Principal

Dear Ms. Starr,

On behalf of the staff and students of Terrace Elementary, I would like to thank you for creating StarrMatica. It has proven to be an invaluable technology resource for us to use in the areas of language arts, math, and reading. We use StarrMatica on a daily basis for whole group instruction in the classroom, individualized work in the computer lab, and student enrichment and remediation work at home. It is so easy to use and all of the instruction, practice, tests, and resources are matched up to our district curriculum. With all that said, I thought I would share the following with you too.

In October, our school was asked to present to the Ankeny School Board Members about what we were most proud of this year, as far as the teaching and learning that was occurring at Terrace Elementary. Our staff unanimously decided that we would share our experience with StarrMatica. Molly Buck, a fourth grade teacher at Terrace, presented to them about how she uses it in her classroom on a daily basis. One of her students, A.J. Caldwell, then demonstrated how he uses it both at school and at home to extend his learning. The Board Members were very impressed. Our Assistant Superintendent even asked us to send information to the Math Curriculum Director about StarrMatica so that it could be considered by the Math Curriculum Review Committee as a possible technology resource for all schools in the district to use.

All of your hard work and dedication to this online database is very much appreciated by Ankeny administrators, teachers, students, and parents. We look forward to continuing our subscription to StarrMatica and our partnership with you.

Sincerely,

Kari Bosma
Teacher Librarian
Terrace Elementary
Ankeny, Iowa

306 S.W. School Street ♦ P.O. Box 189 ♦ Ankeny, Iowa 50021-0189 ♦ 515-965-9600 ♦ 515-965-4234 (Fax)

Dr. Matthew Wendt
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Anne Laing
Associate Superintendent

Mrs. Linda Hoobin
Executive Director
of Instruction

Dr. Craig R. Hansel
Executive Director of Business
Services and Board Secretary

Mrs. Kim Neal
Executive Director of
Special Programs

Mr. Keith Lyles
Executive Director of
Technology

Mr. Steve Drake
Executive Director of
Support Services

A North Central Association Accredited District ♦ Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer
www.ankenyschools.org



ANKENY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION...BY PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST!

TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

310 N.W. School Street
Ankeny, Iowa 50023-1738
515-965-9670 ♦ 515-965-9672 (Fax)
Tiffany O'Hara, Principal

I've included a few comments from our teachers. Enjoy!

I have used StarrMatica mostly for math. I use it to introduce a skill, or review a skill--such as rounding or estimating. It is also a good way to practice, instead of using worksheets. We have done this together as a group on the projector or individually in the computer lab. I also have had kids comment about using the website at home for extra practice. I have used it for literacy some too. It was especially helpful when we were reviewing story elements and fiction/nonfiction genres.

Mrs. Liz Fye, Third Grade Teacher, Terrace Elementary

I had several parents comment on their students using StarrMatica at home to aid in math practice. The parents were pleased that we have such a resource that is educational and student navigated.

I've used StarrMatica as a teaching tool, a way to reinforce my teaching, and as a review. Students enjoy the games and practice activities. I like the variety of concepts and the easy, direct correlation between our standards/benchmarks and my teaching.

Mrs. Heather Staebell, Third Grade Teacher, Terrace Elementary

I use it for basic math fact review. Students take the benchmark test and then print it off for me so I can see which facts they are having trouble with. This is one way of assessing students on their facts.

I also use StarrMatica when introducing a new unit. Students go through the introduction steps and learn the process both from me and the computer program. This helps to ensure they understand the process of the new skill we're learning about. They use the practice activities and games to build on what they know.

We have done activities with division facts though and that seems to have really helped. StarrMatica is a wonderful program and my kids have really benefited mathematically from using it at school and at home.

Mrs. Audra Doak, Fourth Grade Teacher, Terrace Elementary

306 S.W. School Street ♦ P.O. Box 189 ♦ Ankeny, Iowa 50021-0189 ♦ 515-965-9600 ♦ 515-965-4234 (Fax)

Dr. Matthew Wendt
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Anne Laing
Associate Superintendent

Mrs. Linda Hoobin
Executive Director
of Instruction

Dr. Craig R. Hansel
Executive Director of Business
Services and Board Secretary

Mrs. Kim Neal
Executive Director of
Special Programs

Mr. Keith Lyles
Executive Director of
Technology

Mr. Steve Drake
Executive Director of
Support Services

A North Central Association Accredited District ♦ Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer
www.ankenyschools.org