

Fairfield Community School District, located in southeastern Iowa, serves 1,800 students. A total of 768 students are educated in the district's four elementary schools. Teachers at Pence Elementary are in their second year of integrating StarrMatica into their math and reading curriculums. Initially purchased to provide reinforcement activities for students to utilize in the computer lab, StarrMatica is now used in flexible ways for whole class, small group, and individual instruction.

StarrMatica's 3rd-6th grade content includes over 550 StarrMatica created instructional animations, virtual manipulatives, interactive practice activities, and games as well as over 1,500 links to additional online activities. All content has been categorized by topic and grade level and is aligned to state standards.

Since subscribing, teachers and students at Pence have used StarrMatica every day. Fifth grade teacher, Michele Weber, uses StarrMatica to differentiate by using the option to individualize assignments in math. Fourth grade teacher, Katie Hoskins, has chosen to use StarrMatica to supplement her instruction in math and reading. Currently, her class is learning about compare and contrast, and they are using StarrMatica's activities to practice this skill in the computer lab.

Although StarrMatica is designed for students in intermediate elementary, teachers at Pence have also found individual resources appropriate for their primary students. Second graders are currently practicing their money skills via StarrMatica. Middle School Title I math teacher, Justin Copeland, has also found StarrMatica's practice activities and resources applicable for the population of students he serves.

In addition to StarrMatica's content, Pence has also taken advantage of StarrMatica's classroom management system. Each teacher and student at Pence logs into StarrMatica with a unique username and password, which StarrMatica helped the computer lab instructor establish. These unique logins allow StarrMatica's management system to record a score for student work completed in StarrMatica's practice and test sections.

Students and parents can log in to view scores for completed activities. The teachers and the principal can monitor individual students or the class as a whole for progress towards skills mastery. "StarrMatica's capability to collect data either individually or as a class has been very valuable," said Tina Breen, K-12 Technology Integration Specialist for Fairfield School District.

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Fourth grade teacher, Cole Boatright, received a grant in the fall of 2008 that allowed him to purchase a mimio interactive whiteboard. With this new technology, Cole integrates StarrMatica's content in his whole group instruction using the Learn and Resource sections.

As Fairfield School District expands its use of interactive whiteboards and pads in their elementary schools, StarrMatica will continue to supply their teachers with a comprehensive collection of standards-aligned, categorized lessons and activities that lend themselves perfectly to interactive whiteboard use. In this way, StarrMatica helps Fairfield make the most of their investment in interactive technologies. "StarrMatica's resources section is outstanding! It supports each math and reading skill with many relevant, up-to-date websites from outside StarrMatica," commented Tina Breen. "These websites work especially well for teachers who have access to the interactive whiteboards, such as Mr. Boatright."

Pence teachers participated in two training sessions led by StarrMatica's founder, Emily Starr. An initial session familiarized the teachers with site content, and a second session provided application suggestions for whole class reading and math instruction with an interactive whiteboard. The teachers are each personally supported remotely through access to immediate assistance via email and phone.

With the testimonies of the Pence teachers, along with a presentation from founder, Emily Starr, the Fairfield School District purchased a district license in the Fall of 2008 that enables elementary students in grades 3-6 at all four elementary schools to access StarrMatica.