



901 Deming Way • P.O. Box 45016 • Madison, WI 53744-5016

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Sheila Wenz
(800) 200-4848 Ext. 2310
Fax (608) 664-3882
Email- pr@renlearn.com

All Renaissance Solutions Meet the Requirements of the **No Child Left Behind Act**

Biloxi 3rd Graders Increase Math Proficiency by 30% in One Year

MADISON, WIS – (October 12, 2002) The recently released Mississippi Curriculum Test Scores (MCT) for the 2001-2002 school year, show third-graders at Beauvoir Elementary in Biloxi, Mississippi scored higher on the math portion of the MCT than any other third grade class in the state. Over 70% of the Biloxi third graders scored in the “advanced” proficiency range.

Math teachers at Beauvoir Elementary School attribute much of their students’ improvement to the school’s implementation of Accelerated Math™. By generating assignments tailored to each student’s ability and level, Accelerated Math helps teachers individualize instruction. Math instructors at Beauvoir Elementary had immediate feedback and instant data that they could use to improve the third-graders performance and ensure their students were able to meet all math objectives.

“The students scored well on the MCT because Accelerated Math provided good practice at their individual level,” says math teacher Lisa Suarez. “Students who had been below grade level moved up, as well as the advanced students.”

During the prior school year, Suarez joined forces with three fellow math teachers, Sandra Higgins, Melanie Nelson and Becky Pettigrew to implement Accelerated Math. The educators teamed up specifically to help third-grade students reach “top” math marks on the MCT.

The positive results came quickly. During the 2000-2001 school year, 44.1% of the third-grade students scored in the advanced proficiency range. By 2001-2002 that number skyrocketed by 30% to 70.1.

The ability to personalize instruction is key when dealing with various curriculum and standards, such as those set by the recently enacted *No Child Left Behind Act*. “We set goals for each student that he or she can accomplish,” explains Nelson. “I have seen several students who didn’t seem excited about math before Accelerated Math, but are now highly motivated,” adds Pettigrew.

“One of the best aspects of the program, according to Higgins, is that it helps the teacher pinpoint problem areas quickly, assuring that class time isn’t wasted. Accelerated Math frees up the teacher, allowing them more time to actually teach.”

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Renaissance Learning[™], Inc., is a leading provider of research-based learning information systems software, school improvement programs, teacher training, and consulting. The Company's learning information systems software products give students and teachers continuous constructive feedback that helps motivate students, dramatically accelerate learning, improve test scores, and help students master all standards, while reducing teacher paperwork. Adopted by over 61,000 schools, these software products are among the most popular in schools nationwide, including Accelerated Reader[®], Accelerated Math[®], Accelerated Writer[™], Fluent Reader[™], STAR Reading[®], STAR Math[®], STAR Early Literacy[®], and PerfectCopy[™]. The Company's Renaissance[™] school improvement process has been adopted by school districts across the country, and over 400,000 pre-K-12 educators have received Renaissance training. The Company also provides electronic assessment products and services to educational publishers, and sells enterprise software for training and knowledge management. The Company has six U.S. locations and subsidiaries in Australia, Canada, India, and the United Kingdom.

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Source: Renaissance Learning, Inc.

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