

Mid-year SpringMath Newsletter



We're here to support your mid-year success! Now is the perfect time to refresh and strengthen your SpringMath implementation. In this issue, you'll find expert advice on mid-year strategies, new features, and FAQs – all designed to help you drive student progress and set the stage for year-end gains.

Ditch the pilots: A case for faster and smarter implementation of MTSS

By: SpringMath Author, Dr. Amanda VanDerHeyden

Considering a mid-year implementation or expansion of your use of SpringMath? Dr. Amanda VanDerHeyden explains the many advantages of this approach and digs into the science of an effective MTSS implementation, including how to scale your program for maximum results.

[Read the article](#)

Boosting math achievement at Wilson Elementary

At Wilson Elementary, Principal Joan Schumann and her team are transforming math outcomes for students in grades 2-5. With SpringMath, they've implemented a collaborative, data-driven intervention that's raising achievement schoolwide. Read how Schumann's

approach is fostering a culture of collaboration and success that's making a measurable impact on math proficiency at their California elementary school.

[Read the article](#)

Seasonal reminders

External data

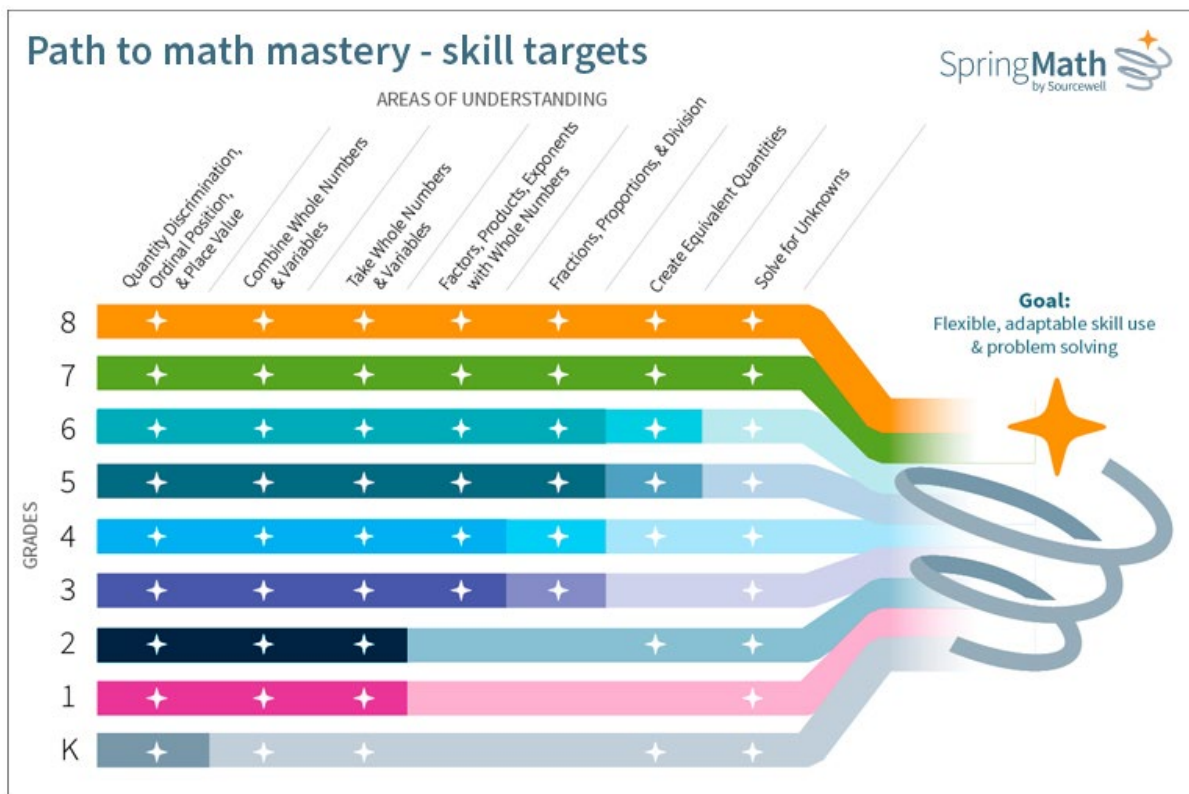
In many states the results of the statewide assessments are released in the fall.

You can go to your state's website and pull the last few years of math scores to see how you are doing. Better yet, data admins can upload this data into SpringMath for inclusion in the program evaluation and the district reporting. See report examples and access instructions for uploading scores in the article, "Program Evaluation," located in the Resources for Coaches section of the Support Portal. If you need further assistance, please submit a support ticket.

Resources

Path to math mastery

Path to math mastery is a new graphic resource that outlines the areas of understanding addressed by SpringMath. Feel free to share this [resource](#).



Scheduling tips from a leading SpringMath Coach, Dr. Laura Miller

Submitted by: Laura Miller, Ed.D., director curriculum, instruction and professional development, Butler Area School District, Pa.

Fitting SpringMath into your schedule can feel like a daunting task, but a little creative thinking can help make it happen. Some creative ways I have worked with schools (or have seen them do it) are:

- Extend the math block by 15 minutes at the elementary level.
- Double block the math period at the secondary level, which allows for not only SpringMath, but additional small group instructional time needed for many secondary students.
- Extend homeroom for a few minutes to run SpringMath. This allows for heterogenous grouping of students and is much easier to accomplish than doubling the block.
- Watch for extra transitions in the schedule. Removing two to three of them can easily result in the 12-15 minutes needed. The time you save can be added onto a variety of different classes.
- Extend already-existing intervention periods (likely for reading) to include 15 minutes for SpringMath (45 minutes – 30 for ELA, 15 for SpringMath).

With a few scheduling adjustments, integrating SpringMath becomes a manageable addition to the school day.

Coaches: How to prep for a data team meeting

Coaches should be in their dashboards, taking a look at their school's data several times per week. From your coach dash, you can see which teachers have entered scores for the week, which classes are progressing as expected, which classes are lagging behind, which teachers are ready for new actions, and what kinds of gains are occurring in real time. Visit the Support Portal to see a data-driven to-do list for the week in supporting teachers.

Considering a new curriculum or reviewing your current curriculum?

See [Kaye Anderson's rubric](#) on how to evaluate your core curricula and principles of evidence-based instructional design.

Tips and new features

Frequently asked SpringMath questions

My class moved on before hitting mastery. Why?

When classes contain 10 or fewer students, SpringMath uses an alternate criterion for determining when they advance to the next skill. Because the median score is unstable for groups of this size, this alternative is not based upon the median score being at mastery.

Remember, we always recommend including every student in core instruction, and classwide intervention at their grade level.

Where can I find special education program recommendations?

Find information on rostering, accommodations, classwide vs. individual interventions, and more in the "SpringMath and Special Education" article in the Resources for Coaches section of the Support Portal.

Students are avoiding the harder problems. How do I redirect?

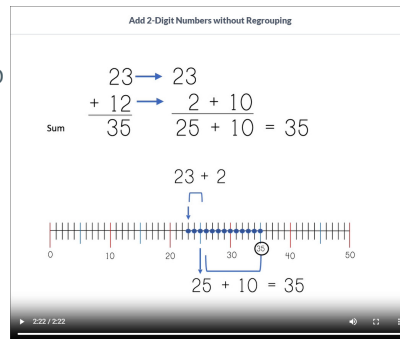
While the assessment instructions say that students should not skip any problems, students may sometimes guess at a harder problem to move on to easier ones, which results in them getting most of the hard questions wrong. Because the pages are divided into thirds (e.g., easy, medium, and hard) they cannot miss all the hard ones and pass the skill. When a teacher notices this pattern of errors, it may be beneficial to solve some of the hard problems as a class, demonstrating how to solve them. The videos provided with the classwide interventions are another good resource for providing examples of how these

problems can be solved.

Brief instructional videos

You may have noticed video icons showing up in your dash next to screening skills, classwide intervention skills, and individual intervention skills.

These videos are brief introductions of new skill content and include principles of effective instructional design. Each video uses explicit instruction to introduce a new math skill. Step-by-step problem solving is modeled and explained with worked examples, connecting new skills to mastered ones, introducing math vocabulary and providing built-in conceptual supports (e.g., number lines, expanded notation, virtual manipulatives, array models).

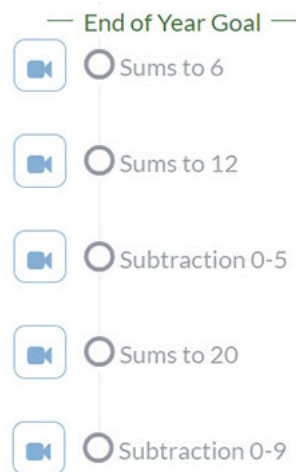


Additionally, many of our skill targets represent skills that require children to demonstrate conceptual understanding to correctly solve (e.g., factoring to create equivalent multiplication expressions in grade 4 as an important precursor to fraction work). Thus, all videos show how to teach new procedural skills alongside conceptual understanding, often skills requiring students to solve for unknowns or create equivalent quantities.

View sample videos

New challenge skills for grade K

Last year we were delighted to see that many kindergarten classrooms were completing the entire classwide skills sequence prior to the end of the school year. This provided us with the opportunity to provide some challenge skills for kindergarten. These skills are the first five skills for the grade 1 classwide sequence and will accelerate progress when these students reach grade 1. These skills will not be included in the program evaluation or district reporting.



Approved Resource List for MTSS

Does your state have an approved resources list for MTSS? If so and SpringMath is not on the list, please let us know by submitting a support ticket, and we will formally apply to get on to your state's list.

SpringMath Community Meeting (formerly Coach Cohort)

Join your fellow SpringMath implementers virtually on Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 2 p.m. CT.

MTSS experts, including SpringMath author, [Dr. Amanda VanDerHeyden](#), will share valuable insights, strategies, and practical tips. This free, virtual meeting is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge, collaborate with others, and gain insights into math MTSS and SpringMath.

Be sure to add the details below to your calendar.

Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 2 p.m. CT

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 973 0222 4809

Passcode: 418064

A recording will be available via the Support Portal after the event.

Upcoming community meetings

Monday, Jan. 27, 2 p.m. CT | More details to come!

Hear Dr. Amanda VanDerHeyden speak

[MTSS Data Academy](#) | Dec. 19, 2024

Science of Math Workshop | Virtual

[2025 SSTAGE Promising Practices Conference](#) | Jan. 15, 2025

Keynote | Athens, GA

[Learning & the Brain](#) | Jan. 18, 2025

Teaching Math Better: What Really Works | Virtual

[MSPA 2025 Mid-Winter Conference](#) | Jan. 24, 2025

Keynote | Plymouth, MN

[National Association of School Psychologists](#) | Feb. 18-21, 2025

Adding it Up: Getting the Most Out of Your Math MTSS Assessment | Seattle, WA



We want to hear about your SpringMath success!

We love hearing about the positive impacts of SpringMath on students and teachers. We want to hear what's working for your school in math intervention. We encourage you to share your experiences and successes with us so we can share with the broader SpringMath community. Reach out to us at info@springmath.org.

[Check out fellow SpringMath districts' experiences and successes](#)

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