

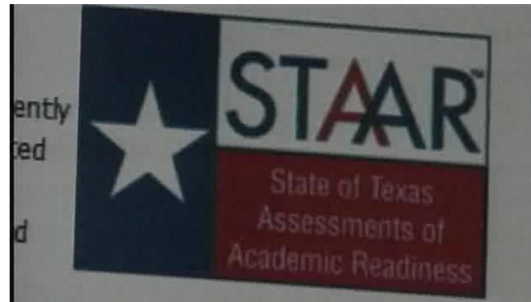


## NEWS

"Ascend Math Program" Helps STAAR Scores at Fort Stockton Middle School 9/4/12

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Fort Stockton, TX – Fort Stockton Middle School is receiving nationwide recognition for their "STAAR" math scores.



The Fort Stockton Middle School has gone beyond average in their STAAR math test scores, while meeting the TEA's AYP (adequate yearly progress) standard. This is a success the current high school principal, who was the middle school principal for the 2011-2012 school year, said it has much to do with a program called "Ascend Math".

"A lot of it is attributed to the fact that our students were getting on level instruction from their teachers. Then any gaps that they needed to fill or any type of remediation they needed was done through a computer [via the program "Ascend Math"]. They could do it at home, at school, before school or during school day," said Gil-Ray Madrid, previous middle school principal.

The Ascend Program picks up where teachers have left off, by focusing on individual weaknesses and creating personal instruction at students' own pace.

"It individualized our instruction... as far as, each student is on their level. They're in 8th grade...but their math level is maybe the 5th grade. It takes them down to 5th grade and works with them there," said math teacher Anthony Urias.

The school applied the program for more than a year and a half. Teachers stated they saw results instantly.

"We want to see success as teachers, even after a few weeks of working on it, we can see the gain in their scores... and so that always makes you feel great," said math teacher Anthony Urias.

Staff member stated the improvement process was a long time coming. The students logged around 10,000 hours on the computers. It's a "hard work" effort that the principal stated would lead to a better future.

"They'll be more prepared for upper level math. They'll be more prepared in math for high school and beyond. They also need to understand that it took a lot of work to get there. But it takes a lot more work to stay where you're at," said Gil-Ray Madrid, previous middle school principal.

Now the middle school is used by the "Ascend Math Program" as an example "model school" nationwide. It's a success the former principal stated was a team effort.

Fort Stockton Middle School administration stated that creating a standardized uniform system and implementing the CSCOPE program have also helped in the high math STAAR test scores.

Additional Information on the "Ascend Math Program":

1. It is a computer program identifies the "gaps" in student skills through testing.
2. Then it prescribes individualized instruction for each student.
3. It motivates and teaches students through video instruction and
4. Works with students on their current math skill level at their pace.