



# JAMES STEPHENS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

*Fort Myers, Florida*



## PROFILE

**School District:** Lee County Public Schools

**District Enrollment:** 81,929 students

**School Enrollment:** 848 students

**Grades:** PreK-8

**Free/Reduced Price Lunch:** 93%

**Ethnicity:**

- 27% Hispanic
- 55% African American
- 12% Caucasian
- 5% Multi-racial
- 1% Asian

## CHALLENGE

James Stephens International Academy (JSIA), part of the 8th largest school district in the U.S., was formed in 2009 by merging Lee Middle School and Michigan International Academy. As a new school and with a new principal the stage was set, high standards, expectations and hopes for students to reach their full potential. However, once the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT) scores were revealed, it was evident a large segment of the student population needed help reaching grade-level objectives in math and reading.

Classified as a Title I school, the administration knew their students faced many economic, social and academic challenges. They wanted a solution to help their students succeed within the 21st century learning model and incorporating technology into their academic experience.

## SOLUTION

In 2009 using Title I federal grant funds, JSIA purchased Savvas' digital courseware program, SuccessMaker® and installed it school wide in their computer labs. Once all of the teachers were trained, students were then assigned to the labs daily, 20 minutes in the morning building their reading skills and 20 minutes in the afternoon practicing math skills.

Three additional labs and two mobile labs were used for mathematics remediation. Students who scored a level 1 or 2 on the state's FCAT test were

*Continues*

*"[SuccessMaker] is useful because it has the ability to isolate the areas where students have displayed a weakness. The tutorials provided to help the students with deficient areas were very helpful."*

— **Michael Seeberger**  
intensive math teacher

*"Students were able to feel a level of success at the performance level and receive praise. My students were provided calendars to record their scores everyday and their levels on a weekly basis."*

— **Brandy Green**  
4th grade teacher

[Savvas.com/SuccessMaker](http://Savvas.com/SuccessMaker)

# SAVVAS



## SOLUTION (Continued)

placed in an intensive mathematics class using SuccessMaker to ensure that they reach grade level skills and objectives.

Every week teachers pulled reports from SuccessMaker to monitor and track student progress. They used this data to guide their instruction in class, in small group lessons or with individual students. Teachers were also able to develop specific lessons within the program to target areas where groups or individual students needed more help.

## RESULTS

Teachers and staff tracked student time on SuccessMaker and correlated their progress to their scores on either the SAT 10 or FCAT state tests. "We found that there was a direct correlation between achievement on the state tests and the progress monitoring reports from SuccessMaker," explains Joseph Bumsted, assistant principal, JSIA. "The teachers who implemented the program with the most fidelity saw on average the most gains by their students."

As the charts below illustrate, students who spent an average of 22 hours practicing their math skills in the program made eight months to one year's worth of progress. For reading, most students spent an average of 13 hours in SuccessMaker and showed six months to one year's worth of growth. The more time students spent in the program, the greater gains they achieved.

*"Math produced a higher level of comprehension where the students wanted to complete a session because they were ready to experience the next level."*

— **Detres Henderson**  
5th grade teacher

*"I like how the characters change as you move to the next level."*

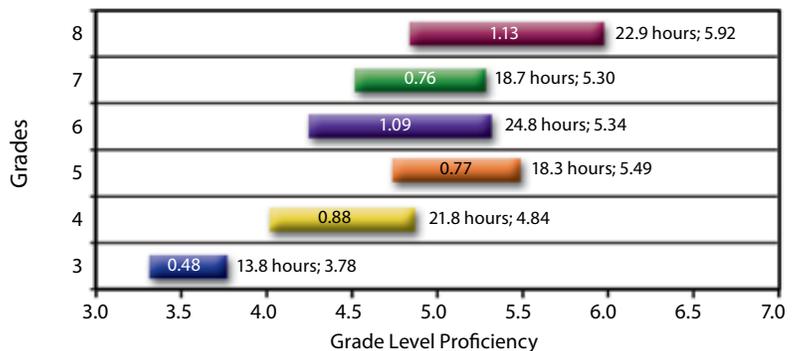
— **Zaviera Mitchell**  
student

*"I like that remediation is given when you don't understand a math concept."*

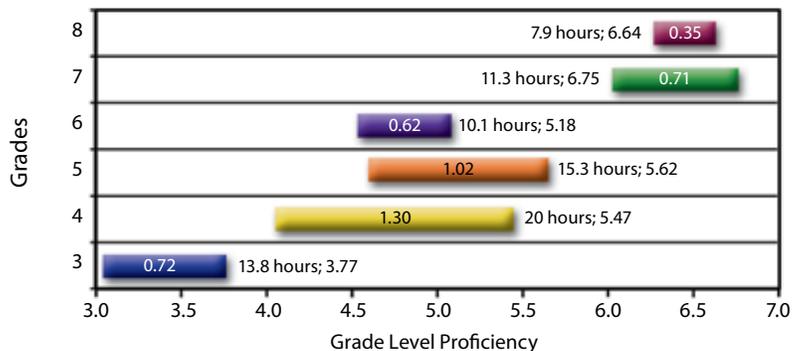
— **Ameri Haywood**  
6th grade student

[Savvas.com/SuccessMaker](http://Savvas.com/SuccessMaker)

### Math Gain and Current Level for Grades 3-8 in 2009-10



### Reading Gain and Current Level for Grades 3-8 in 2009-10



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