

How a Georgia Middle School Boosted Reading Comprehension by Nearly 10%

Like many schools around the world, the students at Mitchell County Middle School in Camilla, GA, entered the 2021-2022 school year falling behind in reading comprehension and fluency. The negative impacts of the pandemic and remote learning left students two to three reading grade levels behind.

To achieve their goal of improving student reading levels by 3% that year, media specialist Jaycie Holland and her colleagues used Beanstack to lead their reading recovery efforts.

Four short months later, they tripled their schoolwide reading level improvement goal for the entire year in half the time and were on target to improve reading outcomes by double-digit percentages at the end of the school year.

“ Beanstack has really helped some of our students who were not into reading, who think ‘I don’t want to go to the library or get a book today’ because it was more user friendly for them, it wasn’t like ‘I have to go in here, write a paragraph’ ... instead, ‘I can really just read this book and log.’ That [approach] works for a lot of our students. Some of our kids were not reading before at all.”

Jaycie Holland

Media specialist at Mitchell County Middle School





APPROACH



Making Reading Fun

Reluctant readers who balked at writing paragraphs and taking quizzes to count their reading loved Beanstack's easy and user-friendly challenges and logs.



Encouraging Independent Reading

School leaders nurtured independent reading habits, made easier with scanning titles and logging reading on Beanstack's web and mobile apps.



Offering Reading Incentives

To work toward making reading its own intrinsic reward, prizes of all sizes, like a toy from a treasure chest or a schoolwide hayride, helped build excitement and motivation.



Engage Classrooms with Competitions

Teachers encouraged students to log reading during class downtime, and the school's morning announcements every Friday included "Beanstack Day" reminders to read.

RESULTS

Four months after introducing Beanstack:

+70%

of students logged their reading.

~ 10%

Lexile value increase from fall to winter.

1/3

of students improved by more than 150L.

CONCLUSION

With Beanstack, Mitchell County Middle School improved reading comprehension at triple the rate they hoped for—and in half the time. Students recovered and gained reading skills at lightning speed. And, perhaps most importantly, they found motivation to read each and every day.