



Nancy Larson[®] Science

Immaculate Conception Catholic School: Case Study

Immaculate Conception wanted a science program that would challenge the students in younger grades and prepare them for future studies. The Catholic school also needed a science program that would help boost vocabulary, reading, and writing.

Teachers add their voice

The school, located in Union, Missouri, started with Nancy Larson[®] *Science 1*, *Science 2*, and *Science 3* in 2008. Teachers raved about how easy it was to use. Immaculate Conception served as a test school for *Science K* and *Science 4*. Principal Tom Stahlman said in his forty years in education he has never experienced a program so thoroughly field tested.

Science vocabulary so strong it stumps the principal

“Sometimes I go into the fourth-grade classroom and I’m embarrassed to admit I have to ask the students how to pronounce some of these vocabulary words. The students know how to say the word, what it means, and how it is used by scientists.”



“I’m fully expecting that we’re going to have to upgrade our middle school science program to make it more challenging because of the quality of this program.”

*Tom Stahlman,
Principal*

metamorphosis

Students involved in real-world learning

First grade teacher Christina Garbs said Nancy Larson[®] Science goes beyond teaching concepts—it shows the students that science can lead to an exciting job. “The students get to be a specific scientist with each lesson. They think that is super cool,” Garbs said.



Other side →

- Test scores improve
- Reading strategies
- No content gaps

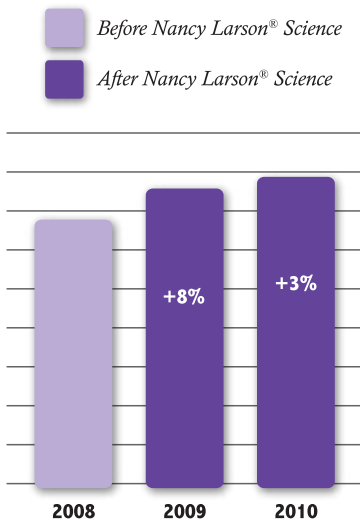




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Immaculate Conception Catholic School and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) at Grade 4



Loves the progression

“The progression of Nancy Larson[®] Science is outstanding. In some of our old science books, there might be 30 chapters, and teachers would pick which ones they would like to teach depending on personal preferences. Then the next year’s teacher would do the same thing and choose the same topics. Where did that get us—with big gaps in our science program,” Stahlman said. With Nancy Larson[®] Science we know all our standards are being met in a mindful way.

Integrates key subjects

Nancy Larson[®] Science integrates reading and spelling strategies into the entire program. These subjects are specifically taught in Garbs’ class every day. “Practicing these important skills during our science lesson improves retention throughout the year.”

Kids dig the big words

During each lesson a new, very challenging word is introduced. For example, the first grade students learn the meaning of the word

“metamorphosis.” “My students love to go home and brag to their parents about the new words they know,” Garbs said.

Structured for success

“My first graders like and need a routine to succeed. They find it very comforting,” says Garbs. Nancy Larson[®] Science follows the same routine for each lesson. “The children know the process: introduce a new vocabulary term, learn the lesson and then work on the assignment. They know the expectations and that’s why they are succeeding.”

“It is so different. It is absolutely wonderful.”

Christina Garbs

“Kids love this program. The whole class is engaged. Teachers are enthusiastic. When teachers are enthusiastic, great learning takes place.”

Tom Stahlman

