



# MyMathLab for School enables students to become independent learners

Doral Academy Preparatory School opened in the fall of 2001 in Miami, Florida and since then has been serving students of all backgrounds and learning abilities in grades 8–12. It's comprised of four schools on one campus, including the Doral Academy Charter High School, Doral Performing Arts and Entertainment, Doral Academy Charter Middle School, and Doral Academy of Technology and has a diverse population of students enrolled — 90% Hispanic/Latino, 2% Black, 7% White, and 1% other. Averaging over 3,400 students, Doral Academy is always looking for ways to accommodate the various capabilities of its vast student body, especially in mathematics classes.

In 2017, Libby Manning, a math teacher at Doral Academy, discovered MathXL® for School for her Advanced Algebra II Honors class. She was so impressed with the platform that she convinced her colleagues to also switch. They all adopted MyMathLab® for School (known as MyLab® Math among post-secondary institutions). As a result, Geometry, Algebra II, Precalculus, and Calculus teachers at Doral Academy all use the MyMathLab for School platform.



## Reaching teaching goals with MyMathLab for School

Manning's two main goals for her students are to perform well on the SAT® and become independent learners. She wants her students to gain the confidence to move up to the next level math class and feel ready for success in their academic careers.

MyMathLab for School has been instrumental to reaching these goals by developing and reinforcing the mathematical skills that help students perform well on the SAT and giving students SAT-type problems. She's watched students' confidence grow as MyMathLab for School covers all the appropriate topics that prepare students for the next step in their math education. "I know that students will walk into the next course saying, 'I've seen it, I've learned it. I may not be perfect at it, but I've been exposed to all of it, and I've practiced it.'"

Manning also appreciates the extra layer of resources MyMathLab for School provides, which encourages students to take ownership of their learning and attempt to work through problems on their own before coming to her. "[Students] have resources in MyMathLab for School. There are a lot of options there to help them before they come to me. If they need help, I still help them, but they can watch a video first of what I covered in class."

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## Better solutions to age-old problems

With a diverse set of students spanning grades 8–12, all with different skill levels, it's extremely important to Manning to **individualize instruction** to fit the needs of every student. MyMathLab for School helps her do this by offering teaching materials ranging from remedial to advanced.

"The good thing that's different about MyMathLab for School is that it covers everything from arithmetic to calculus. When I write assignments, I can pull from other books. If I need to write another [assignment] for somebody, I can do that. It's pretty easy for me to give an advanced kid something different, especially if they're getting ready for [math] competitions."

Another one of Manning's favorite platform features is algorithmically generated questions. **Eliminating cheating** has historically been a challenge for her, but MyMathLab for School has made a huge difference. It helps by automatically generating questions and grading, which curbs cheating and **reduces her workload**.

"I really like that the students can be seated right next to each other and not have the same questions. That's a huge thing for me because we've tested out many different kinds of software to find a way to maintain the integrity of the test. When I used another software to create tests, I had to make 12 versions of the questions, print them, and grade them. [The auto grade feature] helps a lot too. All teachers feel overworked, so anything that helps save time is a big deal."

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## Teaching through COVID-19: A smooth transition to online learning

Due to the pandemic, Doral Academy students are attending school online or via a hybrid setting, with Manning teaching from home and using MyMathLab for School for instruction, practice, homework, quizzes, and tests.

"It really was the luckiest break that we were already using MyMathLab for School when the pandemic started. I don't think we lost a day. We had it set up for testing and assigning online homework, so we didn't have to struggle to find something that would work. We were already rolling and that helped us a lot."

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While teaching from home, Manning started to use the instructor slides from MyMathLab for School and has found them to be extremely helpful. She starts her lessons by sharing her screen and going through the slides, taking notes along the way. Students also have access to the slides so can take their own notes, too. The slides help make sure she doesn't forget to go over any topics. "My whole day is built on these slides."

Manning has also found the videos in MyMathLab for School to be instrumental. The book she uses, *Algebra 2*, by Elayn Martin-Gay, has a video for every section. "That's huge this year because I have students that need to miss for different reasons. When they do, it's not such a crisis, because they can just watch the video."

One of the biggest pros of MyMathLab for School for Manning is that everything is all in one place. "The textbook, slides, and videos are all right there, which makes it easier for me and my students. I don't have to send students anywhere else. I can write homework tonight and include a video and textbook chapter."

## Grading details

Manning allows multiple attempts on homework, giving students an automatic 100% if they score 90% or above, and putting in the earned score for anything below 90%. Because Manning believes working through homework helps prepare students for quizzes and tests, she encourages them to complete their work even after their due date for 50% credit.

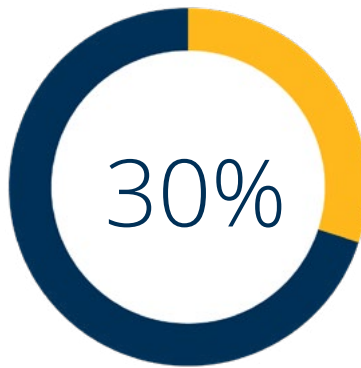
For online instruction, Manning thinks the Ask My Instructor feature is very helpful because it provides students a way to reach out to her to ask questions. She also uses the lockdown browser feature to mitigate cheating behavior. Overall, she has found MyMathLab for School to be a great tool for monitoring student performance.



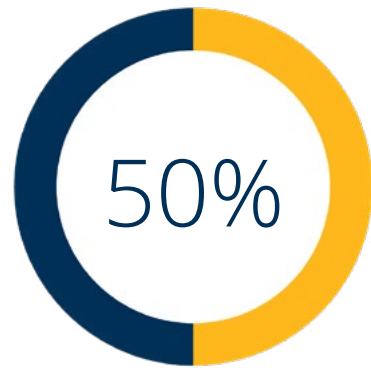
### ALLOCATION OF GRADES



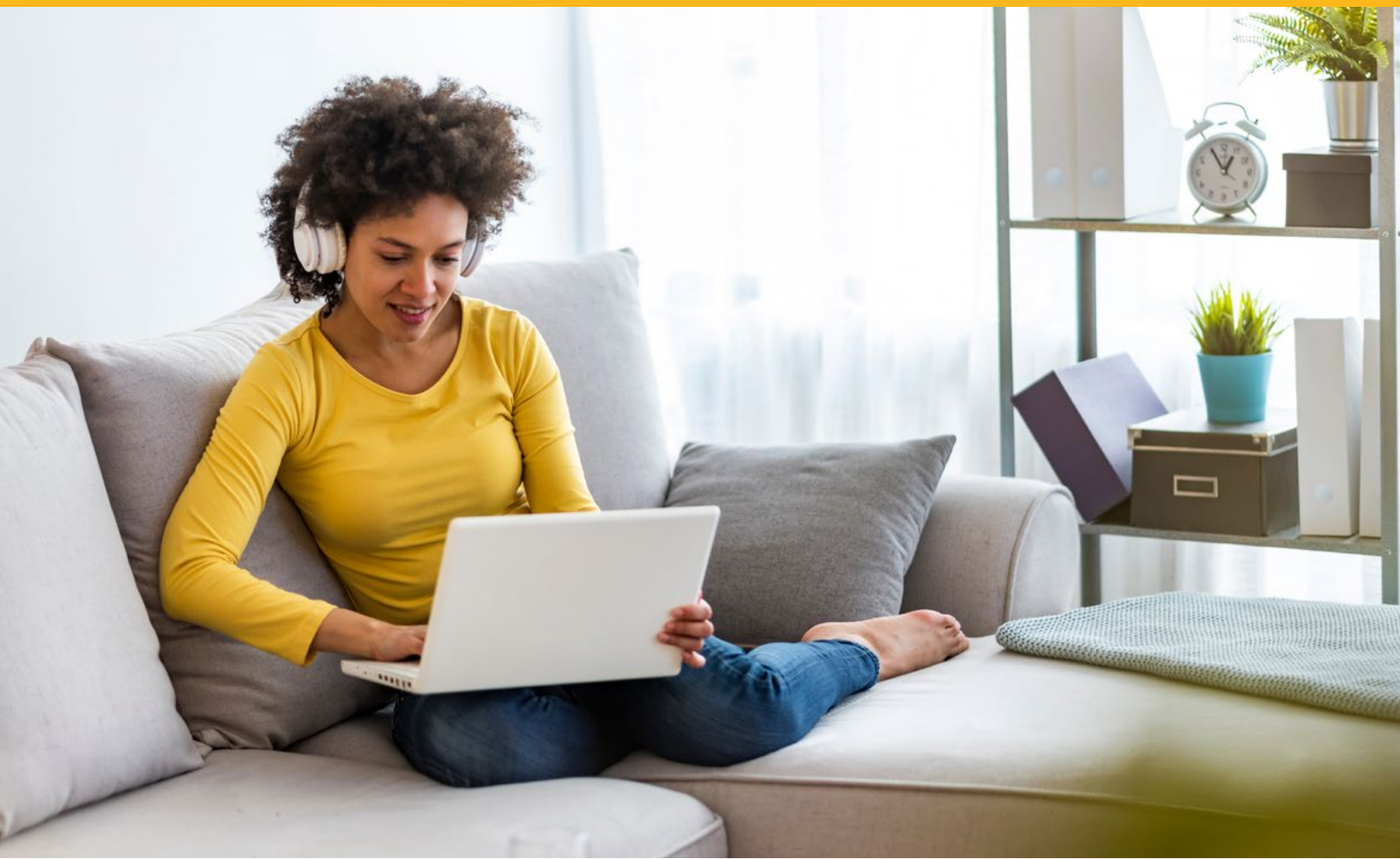
Homework



Quizzes



Tests



## Students and parents react positively to MyMathLab for School

Manning's students think the assignments are fair and they value how they can easily reference the book and videos for extra support and practice. She's also seen that students engage much better with MyMathLab for School than with previous systems.

Parents have responded very well to the switch to MyMathLab for School, too. According to Manning, parents appreciate that students can attempt homework problems multiple times, the abundance of resources within the platform, and that it enables students to become independent learners.

## Conclusion

MyMathLab for School has been a game changer for Manning and her colleagues — giving students an abundance of resources, helping the academy better solve long-standing problems, reducing the workload for teachers, and so much more. Especially during such a challenging year for students and teachers with COVID-19, MyMathLab for School made a huge difference, easing the transition from in-person to online learning.

[Learn more about MyMathLab for School »](#)