

5th Math BarMethod Materials Interview

- Interviewer: Please describe the instructional materials you're using for the lesson.
- Teacher: The three instructional materials I'm using for the lesson are the Flocabulary video, the video from Khan Academy about unit conversions, and then a worksheet from our current math curriculum: Stepping Stones. This is one of the problem-solving worksheets that's located in kind of the "Extras" area of the curriculum. It usually involves word problems, 6-8 word problems around the 2 ... 1 or 2 topics discussed for the unit.
- Interviewer: Why did you choose these materials?
- Teacher: I've chosen these materials, the interactive video materials specifically because they tend to bring out the engagement in the students. You can see that through the use of their ... Well not through the use of their ... Through their interaction with the videos. I don't know something about Sal Khan, it ... They find him very engaging. He doesn't sound like he would be. He's very monotone, but I've had a few of my students tell me that his voice is very calming when it comes to new math concepts, so they said it's a lot more calming than I am. So, I go with it.
- Interviewer: What else is it... What is it that you like about these materials?
- Teacher: I really like how flexible they can be. I can use the videos from Khan Academy, I can use the practice questions from Khan Academy, I can track my students' progress with their practice questions and videos that they've watched through Khan Academy, the Flocabulary video ... Like I said, it's just very entertaining. The song is catchy. The Stepping Stones worksheet is the rigorous part of the lesson, and that's something I like too. So it's kind of tiered and structured in a way that it captures them and engages them, but also kind of helps them form the content connections in their brains.
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- Interviewer: Are there any changes you would make to these materials?
- Teacher: No.
- Interviewer: How would you describe the materials as meaningful rather than ... or useful to students' lives?
- Teacher: The Khan Academy especially, it can be accessed anywhere. The website is free for anybody to sign up. I signed all of my students up at the beginning of the year, and right now they're working on the 5th grade math mission. So it's every single math standard 5th grade has to offer. And at the very beginning of the year, they kind of take a placement test to see where their math understanding is, and they are able to use it on their Chromebooks at any time during the day when they're done with work. So usually in the mornings if they're early, they go on and through the course

of the year, I've seen their math understanding grow.

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I actually have one student who's already doing work that she would be doing in Algebra I for 9th grade just through her persistence with Khan Academy. She's been challenging herself and doing work at home and now when she tests for our STAR assessment, she's testing at a 9th grade Algebra level. And the very beginning of the year, she was testing at 6th grade. I can attribute it to my awesome, amazing teaching, but I have a feeling that it's just the availability of it to be accessed anywhere, on a tablet, on a phone, on a computer. She tells me she does Khan Academy for at least 2 or 3 hours everyday after school. I know, that's just a testament to how successful and interactive it can be.

Interviewer: Good.

Interviewer: All right.