

Metropolitan School District of Mt. Vernon Evansville, Indiana

Metropolitan School district of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, is a school district located in southwestern Indiana. In the 1992-1993 school year, Metropolitan School District of Mt. Vernon (MSD of Mt. Vernon) implemented the Wasatch Interactive Learning courseware in all elementary, middle schools and high schools in the district. They began usage of the courseware in computer lab environments. A lab manager and the classroom teacher monitored each computer lab. Over the years the district has added computers with Wasatch courseware into the back of all classrooms.

In July 1992, a quantitative research project studied the effects of the Wasatch courseware by comparing pretest and posttest scores. The purpose of the study was to determine if students who were taught basic math, reading and writing skills through the use of Wasatch courseware made significant gains in the mastery of objectives. The study was done by comparing class averages of percentage scores on pretests with class averages of percentage scores on posttests, for grades one through five, in three elementary schools. It was determined that the use of the courseware in the three elementary schools had a direct positive result upon the learning of basic skills in math, reading and writing.

The test results submitted to Wasatch this week are the latest test results on the ISTEP+ state test for Indiana students in grades 3, 6, 8 and 10. The information provided to Wasatch is a summary report that was just presented to the Mt. Vernon School board. The purpose of the report was to compare how the Mt. Vernon students were performing on the ISTEP+ test to the state averages. Mt. Vernon schools have been using the Wasatch courseware in every grade and their students ranked in the top quartiles across all tested grade levels on the ISTEP+ test.

Mt. Vernon district personnel say the students' test scores in Mt. Vernon have been increasing since the implementation of the courseware. They are pleased with the district performance on the 1997 ISTEP+ test and they believe this performance is directly related to their use of the Wasatch courseware.