

TeachTown & Clairview School

A Customer Success Story

BACKGROUND

LOCATION:
Greensburg, PA

OBJECTIVES:

In this customer success story, we will define how Clairview School is implementing TeachTown's K-12 standards-based, adapted core curriculum, enCORE, along with its supporting learning interventions, to deliver a whole child approach.

OUR MISSION:

To measurably improve the academic, behavioral and adaptive functioning of students with disabilities.



INTRODUCTION

Picture this: It's 8:42 am on a busy Monday morning in [Clairview School](#), operated by [Westmoreland IU7](#), in Greensburg, PA. Students are hustling and bustling in their classrooms as they get themselves situated and ready for the day. In the midst of the morning madness are the educators. In this building, the early intervention specialists, behavioral specialists, self-contained teachers, members of the Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) team, and other educators, all come together for one common mission: to spark a passion for lifelong learning in every student regardless of background or ability.

When prompted to search for a new adapted curriculum in 2022, Clairview School's team of educators fully recognized that having access to an award-winning K-12 standards-based, adapted core curriculum, along with the learning interventions that support student success, was a must for their student population.

In honor of their school's mission: to actively engage students in a safe and positive environment that empowers students to reach their highest potential, the Clairview School team set forth, with both enthusiasm and a hint of trepidation, to evaluate different curriculum providers.



Enter TeachTown

Our mission is to measurably improve the academic, behavioral and adaptive functioning of students with disabilities.



BACKSTORY

Clairview School, situated in a suburban area just 30 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, PA, is homebase to 105 students across 22 districts, all of whom have different needs, abilities, and interests. Nearly half of Clairview School's students are currently using TeachTown.

For students 5 and under, Clairview School hosts 4 Early Intervention classrooms. Additionally, emotional support, autistic support, multiple disabilities support, and life skills support services are accessible for students ages 5-21.

Similar to many schools across the country, Clairview School had been hit by staff shortages. As special educators, we know all too well that when serving students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), federal laws don't pause until staff count increases. As such, having access to a curriculum and learning interventions that allow for different teachers, paraprofessionals, service providers, etc. to jump in and support each student seamlessly was a necessity, and a deciding factor for the Clairview School when partnering with TeachTown.



The Initial Pilot

In 2022, two of Clairview School's Elementary Autistic Support Teachers, Nathan Reed, BCBA, and Madison Kerr, began a pilot of TeachTown Basics with their students.

TeachTown Basics is a learning intervention software that offers a blend of computer-delivered and teacher-led Applied Behavior Analysis instruction proven to increase a student's vocabulary, listening skills, social-emotional development, independence, academics, and cognitive skills.

Nathan Reed recalls, "It wasn't long after our younger students had access to TeachTown Basics that Madison and I began to witness the progress our students were making. As time went on, we couldn't wait to share the student data reports with our administrator. What impressed us equally, though, was that once we had our instructional sequences set up for students, other staff members were able to come into the room, grab an iPad and get the students up and running."





It was this initial pilot that set the stage for the full adoption of TeachTown's Whole Child Approach.

TeachTown Basics is proven to increase a student's vocabulary, listening skills, social-emotional development, independence, academics, and cognitive skills.

A WHOLE CHILD APPROACH

The journey towards equitable and inclusive learning extends far beyond just academic instruction. Clairview School recognized the need to support students' adaptive, social, and behavioral skills, alongside traditional academic instruction.

Today, TeachTown and the Clairview School are partnering to deliver a whole child approach by **implementing the following curriculum and learning interventions with students:**

			
enCORE	TeachTown Basics	TeachTown Social Skills	Transition to Adulthood
<p>A K-12 standards-based, adapted core curriculum based on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) that provides students with moderate to severe disabilities access to the general education curriculum.</p>	<p>This intervention offers a blend of computer-delivered and teacher-led ABA instruction proven to increase a student's vocabulary, listening skills, social-emotional development, independence, functional academics, adaptive and cognitive skills.</p>	<p>Available for primary and secondary school students, Social Skills is a comprehensive curriculum that offers animated video-modeling episodes, teacher-delivered lesson plans, and student activities.</p>	<p>Available for students ages 14+, this evidence-based curriculum utilizes point-of-view video modeling, task analyses, computer-based lessons, teacher-delivered lessons and visual supports teaching a range of essential, functional skills for students with moderate to severe disabilities.</p>



In just under a year, the remarkable student progress in Clairview School has begun to shift the conversation in special education.

High-quality adapted curriculum is equally as important for those who are implementing it as it is for those who are accessing it. When evaluating a new curriculum, Clairview School was particularly looking for adapted grade-aligned content, high-quality, differentiated literature, integrated technology, personalized instruction, data collection, and of course, an option that met requirements for evidence-based instruction under IDEA. After all, no school wants to be faced with compliance challenges that are ultimately preventable.

“We’d searched for a ‘miracle’ program that satisfies the requirements of all stakeholders: engaging and effective for students, comprehensive and easy to use for teachers, aligned with state standards, and simple to share progress with families. Clairview School staff trialed a few different programs. TeachTown provided all of the desired components.”

- Dr. Rebecca McGee, Principal, Clairview School

Why enCORE Speaks to Educators

Speaking directly to a particular need of Clairview School, one of the many perks of enCORE is that new and veteran teachers alike receive access to scripted, differentiated lesson plans that anchor all instruction with what works for students. Whether a staff member is new to the field, entering the special education profession through an alternate certification program, serving as a long-time substitute, or has been teaching for 20 years, enCORE’s teacher guides provide everything needed for instructors to be successful in the classroom.

“Oftentimes during instruction my students will need me to ask the same question in a few different ways. Having access to the scripted lessons within enCORE serves as a great starting point for us!” - *Madison Kerr, Elementary Autistic Support Teacher, Clairview School*

While many other curriculum providers in the market provide teacher-based licenses, enCORE supports license flexibility with each student’s account granting access to as many professionals as needed to best support the student. Meaning? When a Clairview School teacher is out sick or on family leave, a student’s instruction is not held up. With enCORE, a substitute or different member of the student’s IEP team can pop into the curriculum and continue to facilitate instruction and support the student.



enCORE is a K-12 standards-based, adapted core curriculum that provides students with moderate to severe disabilities with access to the general education curriculum.

How enCORE Impacts Students

enCORE offers a blend of hands-on, teacher-led instruction and technology-facilitated lessons, which has proven to be beneficial for students in Christen Farabaugh's High School Autistic Support Room.

"I have one student in particular who has always been resistant to teacher-led instruction. With enCORE, he doesn't view his learning as teacher-led instruction. To him, his computer is guiding him. Since implementation of enCORE has begun, this student has been able to positively interact with the curriculum, whereas before he would shut down and not respond in the same manner.

Additionally, I work with a number of students who were previously unable to use any form of technology without a major behavior occurring. One particular student has been able to use enCORE all year without a major behavior. Another student uses an AAC device on an iPad

for communication and has been noticeably making much more direct choices on the program. Students using a Promethean board in the classroom are also displaying a lot more focus and making more meaningful selections!"

In addition to the different instructional modalities, enCORE provides access to an expansive adapted reading library based on many of the same classic literary titles that students in general education receive (like Peter Rabbit, White Fang, and Robinson Crusoe to name a few!). The books, which are broken down by three levels for differentiation, allow meaningful access to all learners.

After a gradual implementation of the curriculum in Middle School Autistic Support Teacher Christine Handke's classroom, participation among students has increased as has their demonstration of skills. Her students are also notably excited when they receive recognition of a correct choice.

How enCORE Delivers Results for Educators & Students

For both educators and students with moderate to severe disabilities, having the ability to record and access student data can be a make it or break it scenario when it comes to being in or out of compliance with special education laws.

enCORE is continuously analyzing student progress and responding with tailored learning activities to ensure all instruction is data driven.

Clairview School's Middle School Learning Support Teacher, Tyler Kropelak, shares, **"Creating assessments for students with autism can be challenging with regards to accurately measuring their progress. TeachTown's data collection and tracking features are displayed in multiple ways which**

allows teachers and parents to automatically follow a student's progress over time. This helps in assigning meaningful goals that individually apply to each student. Furthermore, many of the activities on TeachTown which are taught on the computer can be directly incorporated into a student's daily life, school, and work environment."

Based on the impact that enCORE continues to have on educators and students in the Clairview School, Dr. Matt Thomas, Student Services Director, Westmoreland IU7, shares: **"enCORE is such a strong curriculum, I cannot figure out why every single school doesn't offer this."**



STUDENT OUTCOMES ON THE RISE

Having access to an adapted curriculum and learning interventions that support the appropriate level of rigor while promoting independence, employability and community access is crucial to the success of students in a postsecondary setting. When students are taught within their zone of proximal development, the result will be a boost in confidence and academic performance - which is exactly what's happening at Clairview School.

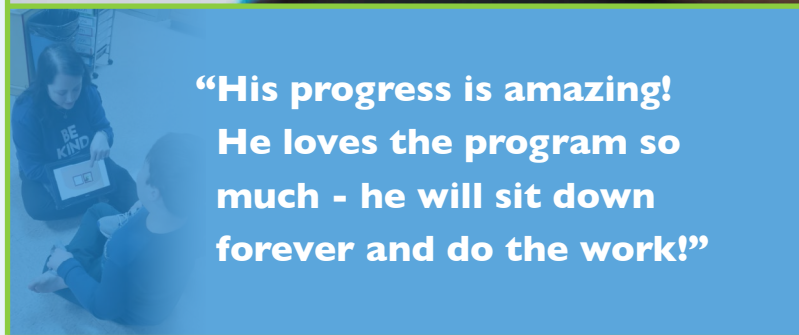
For Elementary Autistic Support Teacher, Madison Kerr, the progress her students have been making, specifically with TeachTown Basics, has been tremendous. Over the course of four years, one particular student of hers had been making minimal progress. He didn't like to use technology unless it involved YouTube or a Mickey Mouse video. Fast forward to now and this student loves TeachTown! He will sit independently and complete the lessons. In fact, he met an IEP goal this year for the first time without adjustments!

TeachTown Basics uses embedded games and animated episodes as systematic reinforcement, keeping students actively engaged in the lessons, helping to build student independence, and increasing motivation. TeachTown lessons can be aligned to state-specific standards and student IEP goals.

Clairview School Principal Dr. Rebecca McGee recalled a recent IEP meeting with a parent, Sarah P., who expressed that this specific meeting was the first 'happy' IEP meeting she had attended. Previous IEP meetings had not gone as well. Since implementation of TeachTown Basics, Sarah P. shared, **“His progress is amazing! He loves the program so much - he will sit down forever and do the work!”**

Working side-by-side with Ms. Kerr, Nathan Reed shares similar sentiments when it comes to the results he has been seeing with students. Over the course of a 6-month period, his 8 students have mastered a combined 1,740+ learning targets in TeachTown Basics, with special attention paid to improved language skills.

“Ms. Kerr and I have recently wrapped up a research project using alternate treatments to treat advanced language for our students who weren't registering on VB-MAPP before.



We used TeachTown Basics and studied prepositions, pronouns, adjectives, etc. over time. These same students are now scoring as emerging Level 2/top end of Level 1 on the VB-MAPP assessment. TeachTown Basics is evoking more language whether students use their own voice and words, a talker, sign - we're seeing a huge explosion with language in general.”

Data is a clear indicator if instruction is effective or if instruction needs to be tailored to further meet the needs of students.

RESULTS

Posted in the main lobby of Clairview School's hallway lives a quote: **"This is the year I will be stronger, braver, kinder & unstoppable. This year I will be fierce."** And this year, Clairview School has done just this.

30.6%

Pretest Score

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, the average pretest score across all TeachTown programs in Clairview School was 30.6%. **Today, the average posttest score across all TeachTown programs is 91.9%.**

91.9%

Posttest Score

61%

Growth Rate

This means that within a 7-month time frame, TeachTown's adapted curriculum, enCORE, and supporting interventions are driving a nearly **61% student growth rate in Clairview School.**

Regularly reviewing the TeachTown data and usage has made all the difference when it comes to student outcomes, according to Principal McGee:

"The monthly meetings with my Client Success Manager provide valuable information including average student/classroom use per month, number of mastered topics, and average length

of sessions. This informs my conversations with teachers when we discuss needs and goals. The abundance of data makes it easy to have objective discussions."

Witnessing student growth soar to new heights while students conquer new challenges and unlock their full potential is any special educator's ultimate goal.





LEARN MORE

As special educators, we all have the same goal in mind: providing our students with comprehensive learning opportunities that pave the way for educational and personal success.

Our award-winning adapted core curriculum and supporting interventions deliver a whole child approach.

We help you measurably improve the academic, behavioral, and adaptive skills of your students—from Pre-K through the transition years.



Scan the QR code to learn more about how TeachTown can work in your district.

Leading provider of K-12 standards-based, adapted core curriculum.

Our suite of special education solutions offers students with moderate to severe disabilities equitable and inclusive access to the general education curriculum and the individualized interventions that support their success.



www.TeachTown.com