

# Colonel Santos Benavides Case Study

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## Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary United Independent Schools District, Texas May 2016

Lisa Martienz's Grade 3 class at Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary began using Sumdog in October 2015 to take part in the United Independent Schools District Sumdog effectiveness study.

After using Sumdog for approximately one hour a week for six months, Sumdog interviewed Lisa Martienz and her class to investigate their experience using Sumdog over the course of the study.

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*"I would encourage all teachers to try Sumdog. Sumdog has motivated my class and they have learned to love math through this program."*

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- Mrs. L. Martinez, Col. S. Benavides



**Mrs. L. Martinez's Grade 3 class**

As part of the effectiveness study the class is given access to all of Sumdog's premium features which include class and individual progress reports, personalized student assessments and challenges, and premium games.

The class had used several online math programs before the start of the study including 'Study Island'. However, Lisa found Sumdog more successful than any of the other programs she'd tried due to students' engagement with the program. *"The kids enjoyed Sumdog from the start and they stopped using other programs as they weren't as fun. Students were eager to play Sumdog in class as they enjoyed competing against friends"*

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*"I like Sumdog because its a fun way to learn about multiplication and division and subtraction and adding. I also like playing with my friends and decorating my home. I think it's the best learning game."*

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- Amiee, aged 10



### **Students competing against friends**

Lisa found that using technology to aid her math instruction enhanced students' attitude towards math and boosted class motivation especially during contests. *"Our class entered a national Sumdog contest and this really motivated the class. They were eager to ensure they answered the maximum 1000 questions over the contest week and were very excited to track the class ranking as they rose to 6<sup>th</sup> place."*

*"The students used Sumdog in class, 10 students at a time, since we only had 7 iPads and 3 computers. During computer lab days, which were every other week, all students had access to Sumdog which they loved. Our lab time was 40 minutes and it was never enough time. My students always felt that time went by too fast, so if there wasn't another class waiting for us to leave the lab, I would allow them another 5-10 minutes of Sumdog time."*

### **Student attitude towards math**

Lisa observed a significant improvement in her student's attitude towards math when they started to use Sumdog regularly. *"They used to think math was very difficult, but now I hear them say 'math is my favorite subject!'"*

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*“My favorite game is Diner Defense, I think it's fun. I learned how to times fractions and now math is easier for me.”*

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- Scarlett, aged 8

It was clear that the class enthusiasm for Sumdog also continued outside of school hours. *“I assign Sumdog as homework, especially during the contests. The class doesn't see it as homework - I hear them say 'we don't have homework' and I say 'you need to use Sumdog' and they say 'yes, but that's not homework!'”*

*“At the end of term I asked my class what they had enjoyed about 3rd Grade and they said using Sumdog for math time!”*

### Student Survey

18 students in Lisa Martinez's Grade 3 class completed an online survey to investigate student opinions of math and Sumdog.

Figure 1 shows the responses to the first four questions in the survey. The majority of the class were happy or very happy to learn math using computers with 17% selecting OK and 11% selecting unhappy.

56% of the students feel very happy when learning math, and 89% of students feel very happy when learning math using Sumdog.

Figure 2 shows the responses to the final three questions of the survey which investigate the class attitude towards math homework.



**Students can use tablets to access Sumdog**

The majority of students selected OK when asked if they would like more math homework with just 28% selecting either happy or very happy. However, when asked if they would like to learn more math using Sumdog at home, 89% of students selected happy or very happy.

These responses back up the positive comments from Lisa Martinez regarding increased engagement in math and in math homework when using Sumdog.

*“I would encourage all teachers to try Sumdog. Sumdog has motivated my class and they have learned to love math through this program.”*

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*“I learned the times tables very well and I learned division too. I like math now because of Sumdog. Sumdog is fun so it makes math fun!”*

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- Rosario, aged 9

# Student Survey Responses

Figure 1: Student responses to the first section of the online attitudinal survey

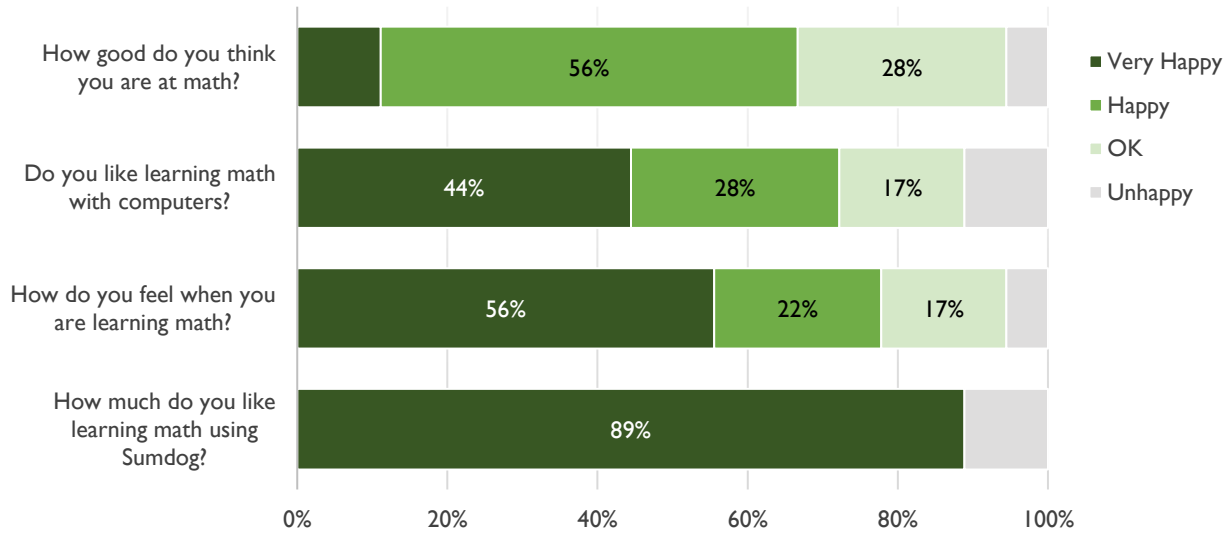


Figure 2: Student responses to questions regarding homework in the online attitudinal survey

