

Spiro Middle School Math Scores Above State Average

When the 2019 school year test scores arrived for Spiro Middle School recently, school officials and teachers were pleasantly surprised by scores that were above the state average and, in many cases advanced, in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math.

Martha Michael and Danny Swopes of Educational Development Instructional Team (EDIT) are experts in the area of implementation of the Oklahoma Academic Standards. In a recent meeting with Spiro Schools, they said Spiro should be proud of these middle school scores. They even commented, "We have not seen math scores at any other school in the state as good as Spiro's middle school math scores."

According to the data, 65% of Spiro middle school students scored at standard or advanced in the Geometry and Measurement area as well as 73% of our students in Data and Probability. In Number and Operations, 65% were at standard or advanced. These are just some of the results which show Spiro students are more than prepared in the math subject area.

Math teachers were asked what they attributed to student success and success on these tests.

Spiro Middle School 8th grade math teacher, Mrs. Sara Floyd, said, "Technology and extra practice heavily contribute to good scores, along with discipline from parents that turns into self-discipline for the student."

Spiro Middle School math teacher, Mrs. Melanie Lawson (primarily 7th grade with one 8th grade class) replied, "As far as students having high test scores, it's important that they are engaged during the school year, and they need to be completing assignments and staying caught up in class. Also, the item specifications on the state website are helpful to understand the content limit for each standard."

Spiro Middle School math teacher, Mr. Jeff Lovell (primarily 6th grade with one 7th grade class), says, "Students who are at school every day and ready to learn are successful in school and on these tests. Good students and good parents make for success as well."

"I am so proud of how our teachers have embraced the use of technology and incorporated it into helping our students succeed," said Spiro Middle School Principal Don McGee. Teachers have utilized chromebooks within the past three years as well as the IXL program which promotes higher state test scores as well as ACT scores.

Spiro School superintendent Richard Haynes states, "We strive to provide a quality education to our students, and this reinforces to us that our Spiro students are definitely learning and as capable as any students anywhere."

School officials and teachers alike say one key factor is living in a community such as Spiro where education is valued by the community and parents.