



HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON

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New Study Validates Successful Learning with Holt Middle School Math

Independent Research Organization Finds Students Scores on SAT 10 Tests Increase after Using Holt Middle School Math

Austin, Texas – September 24, 2003 – A study released today by Holt, Rinehart and Winston—a leading publisher of textbooks and educational materials for grades six through 12—shows that students using the *Holt Middle School Math* curriculum (www.hrw.com/math) had statistically significant improvement in test scores on the SAT 10 national standardized test and that those scores exceeded the norm population expected gains.

The study, conducted by Educational Research Institute of America (ERIA), found that *Holt Middle School Math* (Holt MSM) fosters significant skill development in critical areas of mathematics. It also confirms that students using the curriculum can be expected to perform well on state and standardized tests, such as the Stanford Achievement Test, that contain items related to numeration, algebraic skills, and problem solving. The study was conducted in 11 different schools in seven different states including Illinois, Kansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Texas, and South Dakota and represented a mix of urban, suburban, and rural locations as well as a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds.

ERIA issued four major conclusions:

- Student scores significantly increased on standardized tests after using *Holt Middle School Math* for less than one year. Student mathematics skills and understanding also improved for all three grade levels and across a wide range of socio-economic levels after using *Holt MSM*.
- The skills taught within the *Holt MSM* match those skills that are evaluated by national standardized tests like the Stanford Achievement Test 10th edition.
- Teachers can use the *Holt MSM* program to prepare students successfully for study in algebra and advanced mathematics.
- The *Holt MSM* program includes all of the resources teachers need to implement an effective grade six through eight math/pre-algebra program, and teachers in the study were pleased with the quality and quantity of those materials.

Teachers in the study also said that they appreciated the ability to use *Holt Middle School Math* to tailor instruction to different learner levels. Teachers also found that tying real-life examples to the

introduction of concepts helped students grasp the subject more easily and motivated them to study. “Holt offers the only math text that excites students and presents math concepts in an understandable fashion,” said one respondent. “Most texts present information only, Holt presents math in (an) exciting and multi-level conceptual manner.”

Holt Middle School Math was first made available to schools for the 2002/03 school year. The curriculum is based on research theories that include strategies for differentiated instruction, strategic problem solving, accessibility for all learners, formative and summative assessment, and the transition to advanced mathematics. *Holt MSM* also offers a myriad of supplemental resources, intervention strategies, and tools and is available in an online version—*Holt Middle School Mathematics Premier Online Student Edition*—which offers a highly interactive curriculum with enhanced features made possible by the online environment.

About Holt, Rinehart and Winston

Holt, Rinehart and Winston is a leading publisher of textbooks and educational materials for grades six through 12 and is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. The Harcourt companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Supplemental Publishers (including the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints); Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Canada; Harcourt Religion Publishers; and Harcourt Trade Publishers. For further information, please call (800) 992-1627 or visit www.hrw.com or www.harcourt.com.

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