Implementing IXL With Fidelity
By: Darlene Burks

IXL has been a game changer in my classroom. My students' NWEA scores have ranked in the 99th percentile for growth two consecutive years. Their confidence with learning skills has also soared. And, IXL is fun! Additionally, there is a correlation to NWEA scores to students' preparedness for the OST, SAT, and ACT.

Introduction
Students should be introduced to IXL by talking about the importance of the platform along with how it will be used in the classroom. For example: *"IXL will help you learn skills that you may not have learned in middle school or elementary so that you can do your best in 9th grade and high school. I know that the pandemic caused us to have a few gaps in our learning, so IXL will help fill those gaps. We will work on IXL for 10-20 minutes every day. Sometimes, we will work independently and other times we will work in small groups or whole group. When we work independently, you will be working on becoming proficient with skills or mastering skills. A smart score of 80 means you are proficient. A smart score of 100 means you have mastered the skill. In small groups, we will be working with students who need additional support with a specific skill. When we work as a whole class, we will do a Jam Session. Jam Sessions are so much fun, and you will love them."*

Diagnostic
Administer the diagnostic for 20 minutes each day until all students are finished. When students finish, encourage them to start practicing Recommended Skills. (See Example 1) They are available to students after the diagnostic is completed.

Live Classroom
I also monitor my students' progress with the Live Classroom tool. This helps me convey to my students that I am part of their growth, and I haven't just given them something to do. They know that I am invested in their growth. When they are struggling with a skill, I use the messaging tool to give them another skill to work on, or I will ask to chat with a student. I also ask students about their preferred style of intervention.

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Example 1

Developing Small Groups: If I notice that a few students are struggling with a specific skill, we will work in small groups. IXL also groups students who may experience similar struggles. (See Example 2)

Example 2

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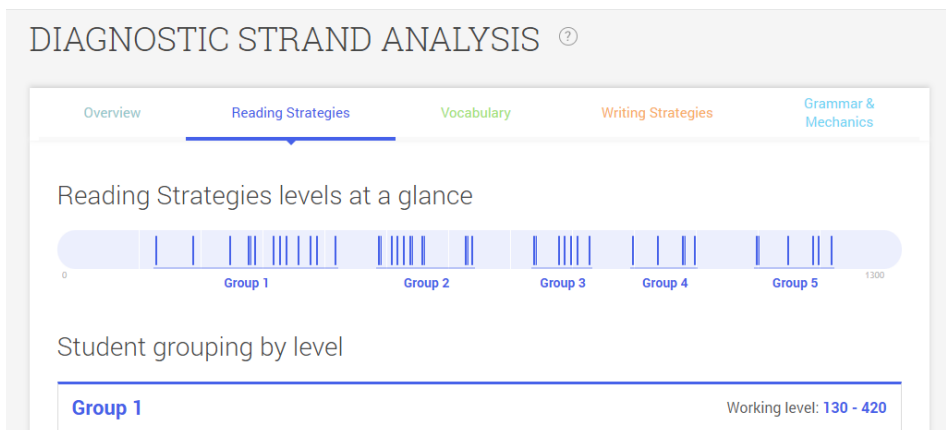
Working in Whole Group: There are two different ways to work in a whole group. I use IXL Jam Sessions to ensure that the majority of students understand a specific skill. I also use IXL in whole group by just logging in on the Clevertouch and practicing a skill after a lesson. I provide further explanations, if needed.

The following skill – Sort words by shared Greek or Latin roots (See Example 3) – is a skill that I would use to practice in whole group with cold calling. I would then assign the next skill (IXL builds on skills) Use Greek and Latin roots as clues to the meanings of words (See Example 4) as a skill that students would practice independently the following day.

Example 3

Ninth grade > ⭐ P.1 Sort words by shared Greek or Latin roots QMS

Learn with an example ⌄

Sort the words according to the meanings of their shared roots.

| postscript | gradual | posterior |
| graduate | gradient | gradation |

| after | step |

Questions answered

0

Time elapsed

| 00 | 00 | 20 |
| HR | MIN | SEC |

SmartScore out of 100 ❓

0

Teacher tools

Jump a level

« »

Teacher results not recorded

Start Group Jam

I provide the code - CQM - and students practice to either master or become proficient while I watch on the Live Classroom tool.

As students master or become proficient, I call out their names in a celebratory style. If students are struggling with the 9th-grade version of the skill, I provide them with a code to practice the 7th- or 8th-grade skill. This builds confidence, and they are able to return to the 9th grade skill to master or become proficient. I send the code by using the messaging tool.

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I have no rights to IXL.

Example 4

Learn with an example ⌄

The root **cred** means *trust or believe*. What does the word **credibility** mean?

the quality of being kindhearted

the quality of being timely and precise

the quality of being convincing

Submit

Questions answered

0

Time elapsed

00	00	04
HR	MIN	SEC

SmartScore out of 100 ❓

0

Teacher tools

Jump a level

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Teacher results not recorded

When students get questions incorrect, an explanation is provided. I encourage students to review why they got a question wrong. (See Example 5) However, if I notice on the Live Classroom tool that they are getting several incorrect answers, I intervene as mentioned previously.

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Example 5

Practicing in Teams: To make IXL fun and competitive, students play in teams. I designate captains and they pick their teams. This helps students collaborate, discuss, and defend their answers before logging the answer. Students below are conferring before entering the answer.

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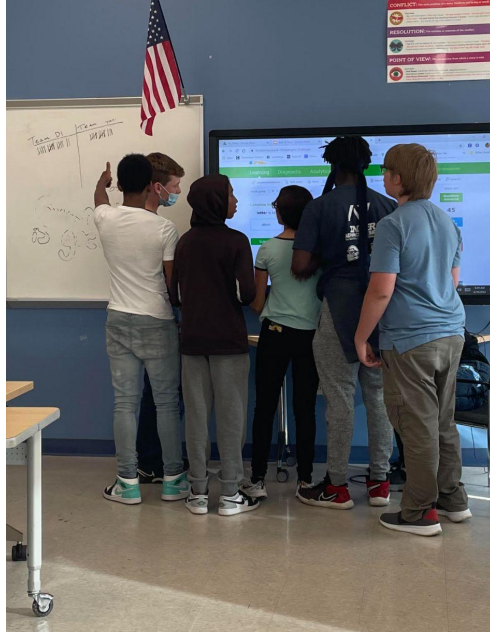
Leaderboards

Leaderboards are great at getting students excited about learning. Leaderboards can be created to record the number of questions, number of skills mastered. (See Example 6) The skills also can be narrowed by grade. I usually include 7th-, 8th-, 9th-, 10th-, and 11th-grade skills. The lower level skills allow students who may not read on grade level and opportunity to compete. The higher level students enjoy challenging themselves with higher-level skills.

Example 6

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Jammin' January

Who has answered the most questions?

1	2	3
Kaysha Janea Jones	Arien Williams	Chance Stabler
3020 questions answered	2441 questions answered	1395 questions answered

	STARTED	ENDED	
	Jan 9 12:00 AM	**Feb 1** 12:00 AM	

| 1 | Kaysha Janea Jo... | **3020** questions answered |
| 2 | **Arien Williams** | **2441** questions answered |

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Certificates

Every Friday, students are provided certificates for mastering 8th grade and above skills. In order to make sure that all students (specifically students who are working on lower-level skills) are recognized,once students answer 500, 1000, etc. they are given certificates. (See Example 7)

Example 7

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Preparing for NWEA

When students take the winter NWEA, I plug their scores into IXL. This provides them a customized plan for them to work on to prepare for the NWEA. (See Example 8) When students work on IXL during the first 10 to 15 minutes of class, they work on the skills listed in their plan. I also explain the correlation of their NWEA score to their lexile level. (See Example 9) I give the entire class a goal of reaching 220 to 225, and I show the following graphic. However, students who may not be able to reach 220 are given customized goals for their growth.

Example 8

Example 9

Reading Status Norms (RIT Values and Lexile Levels)

Grade	Beginning-of-Year	End-of-Year	Lexile Range
	RIT	RIT	
K	147.6	156.3	
1	160.2	171.9	25-325
2	179.7	189.6	350-525
3	191.6	199	550-675
4	200.1	205.8	700-775
5	206.7	211.1	800-875
6	211.6	214.8	900-950
7	215.4	217.9	975-1025
8	219.0	221.2	1050-1075
9	220.9	222.6	1100-1125
10	223.9	225.4	1150-1175
11	225.2	225.6	1200+

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Test Preparedness

Once I have worked with students to improve NWEA scores using IXL. I provide the Family Report, which is found on the NWEA website, to my students and their parents. The information provides projections on students' preparedness for the ELA OST, SAT, and ACT. (See Example 10) This information is shared with students and parents. I have found that students work harder when they know why they are working…to pass the ELA OST in order to graduate and to do well on the SAT and/or ACT, if they plan to go to college.

Example 10

📖 **Reading**

High Achievement 95th Percentile

250 ⟞ Noa

┈ National Average Achievement

Noa's overall score (RIT score) was a 250 on a range of 100-320. Your child was in the 95th percentile of 9th graders in the fall of 2022, which means they scored better than 95% of their peers.

Growth

No growth data to show.

Noa is likely to be:
- *Advanced* on the OST ELA 2 (if taken in Spring 2023)
- *On Track 24* on the ACT College Readiness (if taken in Spring 2023)
- *On Track* on the SAT (if taken in Spring 2023)

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