

1. BACKGROUND

With today's emphasis on providing a holistic education for young learners to thrive in an increasingly connected world, Singapore National Academy (SNA) in Surabaya, Indonesia has looked to Marshall Cavendish Online (MC Online) to nurture and groom their students to become engaged and confident learners. Since July 2011, SNA has been actively incorporating MC Online's world-class multimedia curriculum into its school syllabus and has not looked back since.

2. PROFILE

SNA Surabaya is located in Jalan Raya Pepelegi Pondok Maspion IV Blok G-H1/6 Waru Sidoarjo Indonesia. Currently, 291 of its primary school students and 151 of its secondary school students benefit from MC Online's impeccable e-learning solutions and services available on its Learning Portal.

3. INTEGRATING MC ONLINE'S LEARNING PORTAL INTO LESSONS

SNA's implementation of MC Online's Learning Portal has brought new meaning to the definition of education in the academy. The traditional classroom setting encompassing textbooks and whiteboards has transformed into a boundless platform of interactive multimedia innovations that supplement and enhance conventional teaching and learning practices.

Organisation

Singapore National Academy – Surabaya

Solution

Marshall Cavendish Online Learning Portal

Users

Primary School: 291

Secondary School: 151

Outcome

Increased student engagement, enhanced teaching practices and an increased focus on individual students

Date

July 2011

4. RESULTS

With myriad resources, tutorials and comprehensive lesson management and administrative tools available on the portal, teachers not only have a rich repository of lesson materials at their fingertips to better engage their students with, but can also manage their workflow processes more capably.

Science teacher, Mr Laurence commented, “MC Online’s learning portal makes it easier for me to prepare lessons and helps my students understand lessons better. It also helps me to save time in preparing audio-visual aids which enable the students to have fun while learning.”

MC Online’s Learning Portal has enabled SNA to focus more on each individual student and their progress. With the portal, teachers can now assign online exercises and assessments to students to complete at home for further revision and extra practice. Teachers can also monitor their students’ progress by tracking their online scores, and analyse which concepts are hard for their students to master by checking their assignments.

4.1. INSPIRING EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING

As an online curriculum complete with fun animations and mesmerizing graphics, MC Online’s Learning Portal’s digital content provides an alternative medium of study for students to immerse themselves in. With interactive practices and tutorials that to sustain their attention, students are more easily engaged with this virtual platform.

“I use MC Online’s Learning Portal in class discussions to sustain my students’ interest and deepen their understanding of topics. Now, my students are able to comprehend lessons better and enjoy learning science because of this interactive learning site. Their performance in class has improved overall,” said Mr Laurence.

The improvement in class performance is perhaps attributable to the fact that the portal provides students with the motivation to study at home with its any time, anywhere learning concept. Results from student surveys have shown that students not only find studying and learning more interesting when using MC Online, but also find that the portal’s activities help them learn concepts and methods in advance, thereby increasing their skills in the various subjects and helping to improve their academic scores.

4.2. IMPROVING THE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

MC Online's Learning Portal has not only been instrumental in raising student achievement, but has also helped enhance the teaching experience with its many teacher-oriented tools and resources that help teachers plan, organise and execute lessons better. With a large selection of curriculum-aligned online practices and tutorials that are marked automatically, the portal ensures teachers no longer have to research external sources for revision practices for their students, and can utilise the portal's vast repository of lesson materials to engage students with.

Ms Lin, a teacher at SNA commented, "MC Online's Learning Portal provides teachers and students a large question bank to practice with. It also relieves teachers' burdens by scoring assignments automatically."

Fellow teacher, Mr Stuart added, "It's relevant to the curriculum, easy to assign homework to students with, and gives excellent feedback."

"The topics are also clearly defined and structured, with each of them having a 'learning and teaching' part for knowledge and conceptualization, and a tutorial part for reinforcement of concepts," said Mr Ivan, a mathematics teacher.

Fellow mathematics teacher, Ms Helen concluded, "The portal helps provide variety in the teacher's strategy with the inclusion of interactive activities that stimulate learning. It is a good assessment and revision tool."

4.3. FOCUSING ON THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT

By helping to enhance teaching, MC Online's portal has enabled SNA to focus more attention on each student. For example, the portal's practice and tutorial questions which follow the exam syllabus question model allow students to familiarise themselves with the types of questions commonly asked on the IPSLE test. With its alternative web-based medium of study, the portal garners more interest from students in doing the portal's test questions.

Mr Stuart and Ms Helen remarked, "I feel students have better retention and enjoy using a different medium of study. They are more interested doing the activities and are more responsive."

With their students' added motivation to revise classroom-learnt lessons, teachers are better able to track students' progress through the online scores accumulated from the completion of the online tests. In doing so, teachers can focus on the students who had trouble understanding particular concepts, and which concepts they had trouble with. Teachers can then customise their lessons according to different students' learning abilities and needs.

As Ms Helen and Ms Lin surmised, "The activities and quizzes are used as a checkpoint of students' comprehension. Teachers monitor the score that students get online and analyse the difficult points of the lesson through the results of students' assignments."

With its engaging online tutorials and lessons, MC Online's Learning Portal has effectively engaged learners and enhanced teaching, resulting in higher levels of student achievement. Above all, it has enabled an increased focus on students and ensured that each student is given the opportunity to achieve academic excellence.



Primary 6 students engrossed in using MC Online's engaging multimedia mathematics activities to learn math concepts