



# Insights in Innovation

A blog by "The Chads"

## Diocese of Cleveland - St. Angela of Merici Catholic School

*When 13% of the Student Population is Identified as Gifted is Not Good Enough*

As Springtime rolls around and with it another testing period, schools tend to ramp up their assessment "prep" time. In today's classrooms, it's all about the data. The expectation is that from the beginning of the year until the end, students demonstrate a full year of academic growth.

The Chads have been working with schools across Northern Ohio as a team for three years. In that time, [Edmentum](#) has expanded its digital portfolio to offer innovative solutions which target both **growth and proficiency**. Our ability to see significant gaps ahead of testing is a game changer. The K-12 [Exact Path](#) system is designed to foster growth and has the ability to use current diagnostic scores (from either NWEA MAP, Renaissance STAR, or Edmentum's own diagnostic assessment) and create an adaptive pathway targeted to each student's exact learning needs, while providing all the instruction and support that they need to succeed.

When we began working with **Elizabeth Andrachik** and **Lisa Whelan** at [St. Angela of Merici Catholic School](#) in the [Catholic Diocese of Cleveland](#), we stumbled upon two highly motivated principals, which had a highly motivated staff who fostered a love of learning. As we spoke with this dynamic duo, it was surprisingly hard to find any significant issues that they were facing. When you think about how schools operate, there is typically some areas of concern that they are looking to address. *So, what were they looking to accomplish?* That is when **Elizabeth told us that they have 13% of their students identified as gifted and talented!**



As we heard more about their unique story, it became very clear that Elizabeth and Lisa had only one thing on their mind. **Where they are now is not good enough.** They wanted even more kids hitting the high notes and the students who were already there could still go up another octave. They needed a program that could meet each student's exact learning needs. The challenge they had for us was to do this without disrupting the current success, but enhancing and magnifying their results even more.



Now that the team at St. Angela Merici is implementing Exact Path with fidelity, **they are finding that their student performance scores are up even more!** What Elizabeth and Lisa quickly recognized about Exact Path was that although the program reached each student at their level, it was also an all-in-one teacher resource. Long gone are the days of searching through a binder for a worksheet, or having to create test questions for a particular skill. Everything is all laid out in one complete program, serving as a digital workbook of resources and content.

One would expect Edmentum to take credit for Exact Path, but it is quite the opposite. **You see, this “program” is a tool to identify needs and automatically provide a personalized learning pathway for each student in Math, Reading, and Language Arts.** Through monitoring, analyzing NWEA™ MAP® results, auto grouping by skills, teacher challenges, and the open-ended ability to search for any needed additional materials, the world truly has become their oyster.

So, would you believe that the next question they had for The Chads’ was...



## What can we do next?

It’s true. And there was much that they can do to continue to grow and raise the bar for their students. The ability to consult with both Elizabeth and Lisa has been truly rewarding and it will be awesome to see them utilize best practices in digital learning to help support their teachers and students.

St. Angela Merici in Fairview Park is a perfect example of what a motivated and dedicated group of administrators and teachers can accomplish. The lesson here is that with the right motivation within your staff, the sky is the limit. Enhance your student performance results today by partnering with a dedicated team who is committed to providing proven resources to your school, which can expand your horizons both now and in the future.

Finally, we would like to offer a big thank you to all of our hard-working schools! We appreciate each and every one of you and look forward to helping you enhance your results too.

Yours in Education,

**“The Chads”**

Chad Sabo & Chad Schoolcraft