

CASE STUDY

School/District:

Maplewood Elementary School Maple Valley Schools

Location: Vermontville, MI

of Students Served:

40

Implementation Type:

1:1 – 1:5

Partnered with Varsity Tutors
to address:



Academic under performance

Accelerating Literacy Growth with Varsity Tutors

CUSTOMER OVERVIEW

Maplewood Elementary, part of Maple Valley School District, set out to strengthen literacy outcomes for upper elementary students. Partnering with Varsity Tutors, the district launched a six-month tutoring initiative focused on English Language Arts (ELA) to address academic underperformance and drive measurable growth in reading proficiency.



CHALLENGE

The district faced persistent challenges in literacy achievement, with many students performing below benchmark levels. Leaders aimed to accelerate growth and engagement through targeted intervention, setting an ambitious goal of at least a **5% increase in student RIT scores**.

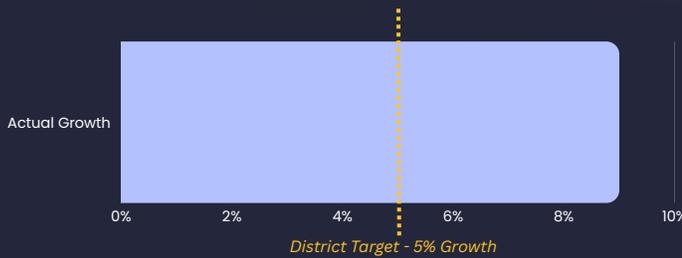


SOLUTION

Under the leadership of Principal Trent Harvey and program lead Kathy Hansbarger, Maplewood engaged approximately 40 students in grades K-5, focusing primarily on fourth and fifth graders. Varsity Tutors provided small-group, personalized ELA tutoring. The program combined consistent tutoring sessions with ongoing data assessments, allowing educators to track growth and tailor instruction in real time.

RESULTS

Academic Growth



Average RIT Growth
Up to a 9% increase
in average RIT scores

Exceeding the district's 5% target



Exit Assessment Growth
+13% overall growth

Based on Varsity Tutors assessments



Attendance-Driven Growth

Students with attendance rates above 90% improved their scores by

an average of 15%

“Hunter told me that it was the best session he has had so far in tutoring... The fact that he got done with his session and immediately told me it was his best session ever is huge,” said Hansbarger, affectionately known by students as “Grandma Kathy”

Engagement Growth

➤ Students who previously struggled with motivation began viewing tutoring as a highlight of their week.

KEY TAKEAWAY



Consistent, small-group tutoring in reading delivered results that outpaced district expectations.



Strong program leadership, consistent attendance, and ongoing data use were key drivers of success.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encouraged by measurable gains, Maple Valley plans to integrate Varsity Tutors more deeply into classroom instruction, embedding tutoring directly into daily learning to sustain momentum and continue improving literacy outcomes. For Maplewood Elementary, the partnership has become a model for how schools and tutoring providers can work together to combine data, instruction, and engagement to drive lasting academic improvement.