



# VENUS HIGH SCHOOL

Venus, Texas

MyFoundationsLab™

MyMathLab®



## PROFILE

**District:** Venus Independent School District

**District Enrollment:** 1,914 students

**School Enrollment:** 515 students

**Grades:** 9-12

**Free or Reduced Price Lunch:** 70%

**Ethnicity:**

- 52% Caucasian
- 40% Hispanic
- 4% African American
- 4% Other

## CHALLENGE

Located 30 miles south and west of Dallas-Fort Worth, the town of Venus, Texas, once a rural farming town has grown into a small suburban community of more than 2,900 residents. With one school district, Venus Independent School District serves 1,966 students and has one high school, Venus High School (Venus) with some 515 students.

Venus administrators, dedicated to providing a quality education for all of their students, noticed a downward trend. They identified wide gaps in students' understanding of fundamental grade-level objectives. These gaps prevented them from progressing sufficiently and affected their achievement on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) proficiency tests. To bridge the knowledge gaps, school administrators decided to put a program in place to address math and reading skill development along with credit recovery needs.

## SOLUTION

In 2011 Venus officials purchased several Pearson Digital Learning web-based products, including WriteToLearn®, a reading, writing and assessment program; NovaNET® Courseware, core courses; and MyMathLab, a math assessments and skills improvement product for Algebra II. They also piloted MyFoundationsLab, an assessment and math skills remediation program.

Every student was selected to use one or more of the online course and assessment products. WriteToLearn was implemented by all English teachers. Students were scheduled time in computer labs or in classroom workstations. Individual areas of weakness were determined by the program and students worked to improve those areas, their overall writing as well as assessment skills.

*Continues*

*"With the Pearson products we have been able to close many gaps in learning that other products have been unable to address."*

— **Lisa Castillo**  
assistant principal

*"Working with MyFoundationsLab really opened the eyes of some of my students. They did not realize what areas of math they truly needed assistance in. Plus, it was a fun change of pace for the students instead of the normal everyday work."*

— **Chelsea Kazmierski**  
math teacher

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## SOLUTION (Continued)

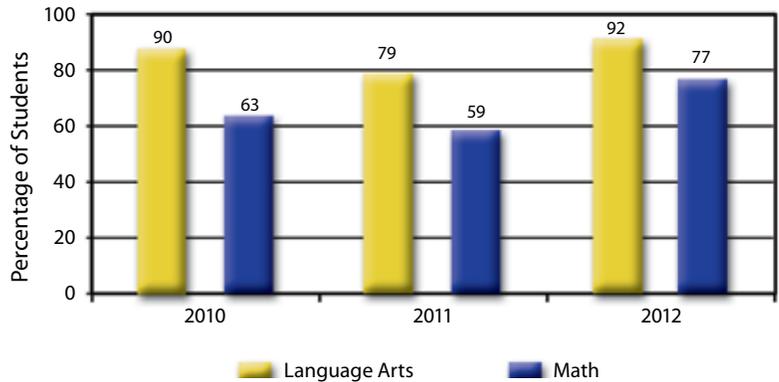
For students who had failed a course or needed to recover credits, they were scheduled time on NovaNET Courseware during school hours or during an evening school, which ran Monday through Thursday from 2:30-7:30 PM. Depending on the courses needed, students were scheduled time on the computers to work independently and at their own pace.

MyMathLab was used daily as a supplemental instructional curriculum for all Algebra II students, who were mostly in the 11th grade. They also received dual credit at Venus and the local community college. MyFoundationsLab was used as a supplement for 11th grade students who had failed geometry.

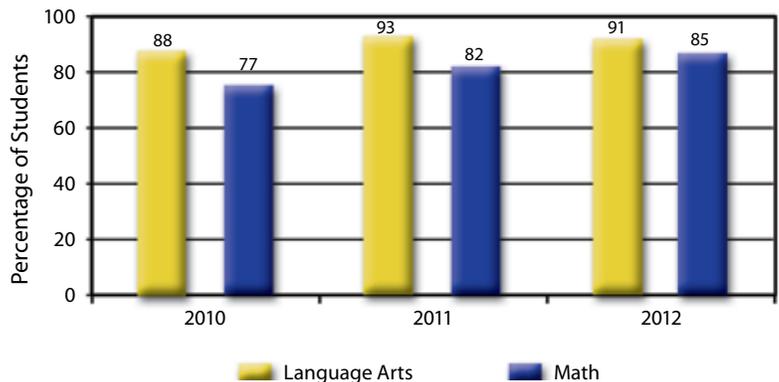
## RESULTS

“Overall in every grade we have grown immensely in English language arts and math during the 2011-12 school year. Our students were able to recover 79 1/2 credits for courses they needed to get back on track to graduate. We also performed benchmark testing at the beginning and end of the year and compared 2011 to 2012 TAKS scores. Our 11th grade students made major strides in math and English language arts,” explains Lisa Castillo, assistant principal for Venus High School. See charts below for TAKS score comparisons.

### TAKS Results for Grade 10 – 2010-2012 Percent of Students Scoring at a Proficient Level



### TAKS Results for Grade 11 – 2010-2012 Percent of Students Scoring at a Proficient Level



*“I found WriteToLearn to be a great diagnostic tool to determine student weak areas which would pinpoint their specific needs. It was a quick way to allow me to individually help each student improve their writing.”*

— **Deanna Eiland**  
English teacher

*“In NovaNET Courseware, being able to keep up with students’ time on task (through reports) allowed me as a teacher to document and be thorough while keeping students on track. Mainly it gives our students hope that they can still graduate when before the possibility seemed bleak.”*

— **Michael Chavez**  
credit recovery teacher

*“NovaNET Courseware allowed me to work 24 hours a day to complete my coursework which allowed me to graduate on time instead of a year late.”*

— **Kirsten M.**  
student

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