

*Submitted by Mary Swanson*

Teachers are constantly trying to find new, innovative ways to address the needs of the students in their classrooms. GRACE administrators did some research and found a program called Compass Learning/Odyssey that we hope will help our students increase their MAP test scores. The program “uses MAP results to automatically create learning paths of engaging, challenging activities that teach and review concepts while capturing and holding students’ attention.”

The students that teachers and administrators feel will benefit the most from additional practice will receive 45-90 minutes of work with Compass Learning/Odyssey websites per week. The extra work can happen at home or at school. Teachers can then “use data to inform instruction after the initial assessment and throughout the school year.” The unique and time saving idea behind the program is that “Odyssey’s award-winning curriculum activities are aligned to NWEA RIT ranges, enabling teachers to use Odyssey to differentiate instruction for small groups of students.” Our teachers no longer have to spend time finding websites to use with students; Odyssey does this for them.

When students are working in the Compass Learning/Odyssey system, teachers are automatically notified if a student is having difficulty with a skill. In addition, Odyssey reinforces recently learned concepts along with introducing new concepts so students are continually practicing and learning. Each school has three licenses to use with students and our hope is to use these licenses to the fullest. Our focus at the beginning of the venture is to use the licenses for those students who are at risk, then expand the focus to our advanced students. We hope to be able to purchase more licenses for each school for the 2012-2013 school year.

(Information taken from <http://www.compasslearning.com/CompassFileUpload/563F-CLNWEA-0409-WEB.pdf>)