



ST Math[®]

**Personalized Learning
Resource Kit**



What is Personalized Learning?

Personalized learning has been defined different ways, depending on the context, connection to pedagogy and technology, and even between different educational institutions. Through research, practice, and shared experienced from education leaders, there are elements that have proven effective in personalized learning models. These elements can help provide a foundation for a school or district designing their own approach.

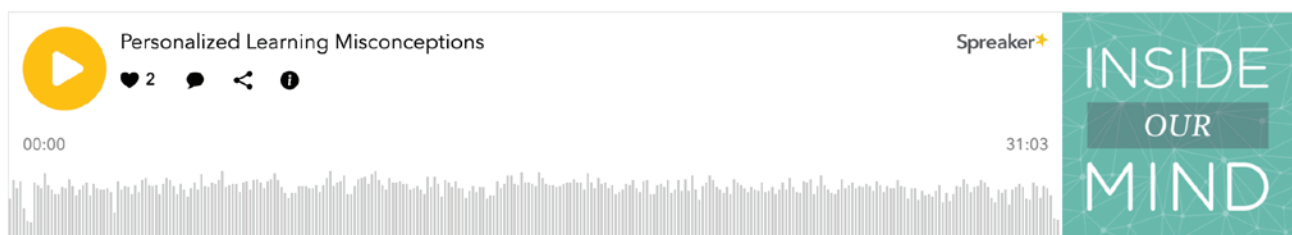
Personalized learning environments enable each student to explore and develop their own pathway to mastery. By providing problems, situations, and scenarios rich with decision making and immediate informative feedback, student actions drive the learning. When learning is truly personalized, all students are equipped to reach the highest levels of achievement, regardless of where they started or their pace of learning.

Personalized Learning Misconceptions

Personalized Learning is not:

- ✗ Technology. What is the tech doing that's really going to help learning outcomes?
- ✗ Customizing to styles of learning or preferences. Research has debunked the [learning styles myth](#).
- ✗ Adaptivity. Adaptivity tells the computer to choose - it's placement. How is the tool personalized at the moment that decisions are being made?
- ✗ Rewinding. If you didn't get it the first time, is getting the same information the same way going to help? If I got a hint, what decision did I make to get this hint as opposed to another? Or do all decisions get the same hint?
- ✗ The antithesis of one size fits all. The goal is that all students can learn in a deep and meaningful way. Sometimes in trying to become the antithesis of "one size fits all," we create the antithesis for personalized learning.
- ✗ Choosing what you get to learn. Personalized learning requires that learning actually is happening. In the moment that a student gets "stuck", that's the moment where learning is happening.
- ✗ Just holding an innovative viewpoint. We must move beyond that mindset to innovative actions that give students new opportunities to learn.
- ✗ A new concept. The concept of personalized learning has been around, but we now have the opportunity to dive even deeper into that personalized learning can be.

This episode of the Inside our MINDs podcast talks about [personalized learning misconceptions](#), and what questions you should be asking when implementing personalized learning at your school. Listen below:



8 Ingredients for a Successful



PERSONALIZED LEARNING APPROACH

1

Focus on student actions.

2

Provide problems, situations, and scenarios rich with decision making.

3

Get as close as possible to instant informative feedback.

4

Celebrate early failures.

5

Focus on how students practice.

6

Allow students to work at their own pace.

7

Adapt at the moment of learning.

8

Use technology to amplify the above.

To learn more, visit stmath.com/personalized-learning.

ST Math

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ST Math is created by
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www.mindresearch.org



Personalized Learning vs. Personalized Practice

Asking the right fundamental questions while implementing personalized learning will help ensure you don't get caught up in the buzzwords. Ask:

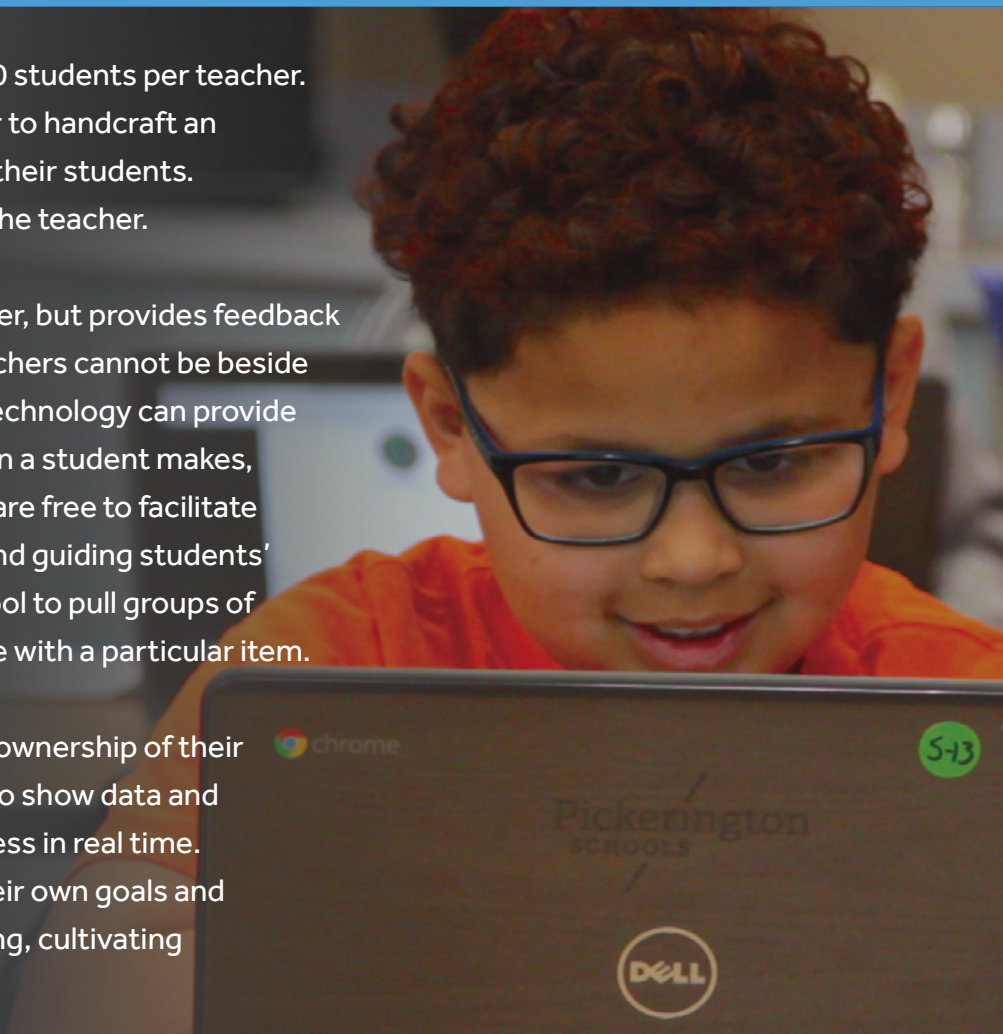
- Is the technology providing an active or passive learning experience?
- Is the technology offering personalization, or merely customization?
- Is the technology offering a learning experience, or a practice experience?
- What are the ingredients of true personalized learning?
- What kind of experience are you looking to provide for your students?

Using Technology to Improve Personalized Learning

Classrooms in the US range from 20-30 students per teacher. It is not feasible to expect each teacher to handcraft an individualized learning plan for each of their students. This is where technology can support the teacher.

Technology does not replace the teacher, but provides feedback in a scalable yet individualized way. Teachers cannot be beside every student for every decision. But technology can provide personalized feedback for each decision a student makes, depending on their decision. Teachers are free to facilitate deeper learning through questioning and guiding students' line of thinking. Or use data from the tool to pull groups of students who need targeted assistance with a particular item.

Technology can allow students to take ownership of their learning. Technology has the capacity to show data and analytics based on the student's progress in real time. This encourages students to create their own goals and continue learning for the sake of learning, cultivating **intrinsic motivation**.



Personalized Learning in the Classroom

Examples and insights from education leaders who've implemented personalized learning with successful student learning outcomes.



"I grew up as a teacher where all students were grouped in a box and the instruction was very cookie-cutter. It left few options for creativity and for meeting a student at their individual level. We're now in a new era where we're having broader discussions about what meeting those students can look like. Personalized learning isn't a new concept - it's been around. I think what's important is that we're now at a point now where we can go deeper into it."

Wendy Kerr, Principal, Live Oak Elementary, CA

[Read more about how personalized learning changed Live Oak »](#)

"For the first six months [developing a personalized learning plan], we talked about nothing other than what we wanted teaching and learning to look like in the future. A lot of that geared around the idea of moving the teacher out from behind their desk, giving the kids what they needed, and not teaching to the middle."

Brian Seymour, Director of Instructional Technology,

Pickerington Local School District, OH

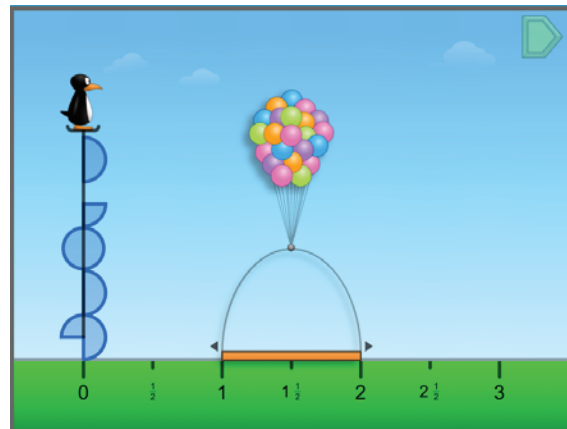
[Read more about Pickerington's personalized learning model »](#)



Personalized Learning with ST Math

ST Math is a visual instructional program that builds a deep conceptual understanding of math through rigorous learning and creative problem solving to engage, motivate and challenge PreK-8 students toward higher achievement.

In ST Math, over 230 visual games with more than 35,000 puzzles create a unique pathway of interconnected content challenges to provide differentiated instruction for individual students, regardless of skill level.



Students take their own path to mastery. In order to move to new levels, they must demonstrate mastery at each stage of the objective. To ensure all students develop deep mathematical understanding, the program personalizes their exposure to each concept according to their unique needs. As a result, students are empowered to work through any obstacle as they make their own pathway to mastery.

[Play Sample Games »](#)

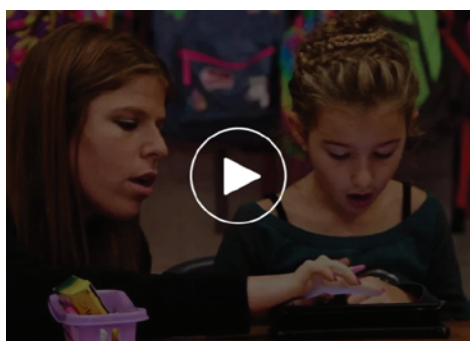
Schools Using ST Math to Personalize Learning



"Our end-all, be-all goal is individualized, personalized, differentiated instruction. ST Math allows students to work at their own pace. It allows student to fill in some of those gaps that may have been missed in previous courses."

Brian Seymour, Director of Instructional Technology, Pickerington Local SD, OH

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"Taking teaching to the next level is really all about individualizing learning for all students. One way that we do that here at Marlboro Township is purposeful use of our digital tools. And ST Math is one of our digital tools that fills an important gap, which other digital tools do not."

Michael Ballone, Dir. Of Curriculum & Instruction, Marlboro Township Schools, NJ

[View Full Profile »](#)

Resources



Assessment and Adaptation in Personalized Learning

Why leveling is not the answer when it comes to personalized learning.

[Listen to Podcast »](#)



Personalized Learning in Action with Edtech Tools

Tools this educator uses to personalize learning for her students.

[Read Blog »](#)



Using Math Software for High Impact Personalized Learning

Highlights from a webinar exploring the power of differentiated instruction in math.

[Watch Webinar Highlights »](#)



Blended Learning Models and Best Practices from Blended

A practical field guide to implementing blended learning in the classroom.

[Read Blog »](#)

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