

# Small, Rural District Embraces Innovation, Achieves Success

## Commerce City School District Success Story

### Commerce City and Classworks Go Way Back

In 2006, Commerce City Schools was searching for a comprehensive program to support their mission of maximizing achievement for every student. With limited resources, like many small, rural districts, they needed to find one solution that would provide longevity, evolving to meet their ever-changing needs.

Challenge accepted! Classworks began working with Commerce City to create a long-term plan to reach their goals.

### District Profile:

**District size: 1,457 students (small, rural)**

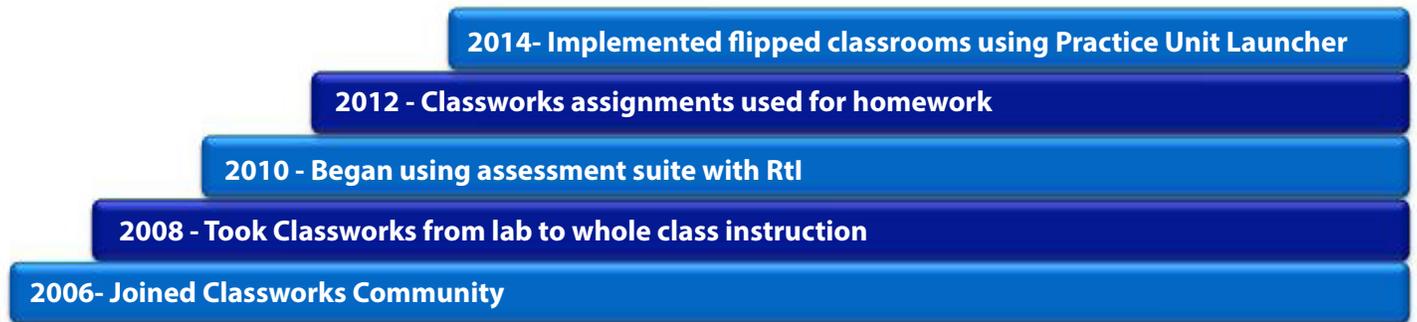
**Number of schools: 4**

**Number of teachers: 114**

**Percent eligible for free/reduced lunch: 57%**

**Early Intervention Program Enrollment (K-5): 26.4%**

**Classworks customer since: 2006**



### Something to Brag About

Together, Commerce City and Classworks have experienced tremendous success. This is largely due to the dedication of the administrators and teachers working together with the Classworks Managed Services team – and, of course, the hardworking students.

In 2013, the Georgia Department of Education awarded Commerce City Schools a College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score of 84.6, almost nine points higher than the overall state score of 75.8. The CCRPI is Georgia's accountability system that measures how schools are performing on a scale of 1-100.

Individually, the schools have something to brag about as well:

- **Commerce Primary – 97.8 CCRPI score;** Eighth best score in the state
- **Commerce Elementary – 94.1 CCRPI score;** 4.8-point increase over prior year
- **Commerce Middle – Jumped from 69th percentile (2012) to 82nd percentile (2013)** based on Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) scores in English Language Arts and Math

*"We are so proud of the accomplishments in our district. This school year we had fewer instructional days for students and limited staff and resources. However, **when your teachers and administrators are dedicated to student achievement and have the support Classworks provides**, you see the positive results reflected in the students."*

*Joy R. Tolbert, Ed.D., Superintendent, Commerce City Schools*

## What Are They Doing Right?

A whole lot! At the district level, Commerce City recognizes that support and training for teachers is a key factor to ensuring the program's success, and we agree. Ongoing professional learning and support has empowered teachers to use Classworks inside and outside the classroom to supplement their own instruction.

During the 2012-2013 school year, Commerce City students spent, on average, an hour a week on Classworks instruction, customized to focus on their individual needs. Customized, how?

**1<sup>st</sup>** Commerce City uses Classworks to automatically create Individualized Learning Plans (ILP) using data from Georgia's student assessment, CRCT. This enables students to receive targeted skill-level and performance-based instruction. In the 2012-2013 school year, students **completed over 80,000 activities with 81% mastery in English Language Arts and 77% in Math.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** To decide which students need additional Classworks instruction, Commerce City screens their students using our Universal Screener every fall, winter, and spring. Using that data, they identified struggling students early on and provided additional targeted instruction.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Commerce City monitors ongoing progress and growth for their students with excellent results. The right students got the right instruction and the proof is in the scores. In that same school year, targeted, high users saw more growth and were able to catch up!

**43% vs 21%** Commerce City Schools Classworks users achieved 43% growth from fall to spring compared to 21% achieved by non-users

**56% vs 25%** Commerce Primary School Classworks users achieved 56% growth from fall to spring compared to 25% achieved by non-users

***"Classworks is an important part of my curriculum. It helps me identify where my students are in their learning process, allowing me to plan lessons that focus on their strengths and weaknesses. My students are engaged and excited when they see what they can accomplish, and I'm thrilled to see not only their test scores increasing, but their confidence as well."***

*Pam Adams, 1st Grade Teacher, Commerce Primary School*

## The Key to Future Success

Commerce City has masterfully used Classworks to work towards their goal of growth for all students. Going forward, teachers embrace new ways to use Classworks, such as using our Practice Unit Launcher to flip their classrooms. For the 2014-2015 school year, Commerce City will use Classworks District Custom Assessments to customize current assessments to match their curriculum, and create their own test items to provide flexibility in subject areas like Social Studies and PE.

Commerce City faces the same challenges as many other districts: provide global skills that ensure students are college and career ready. They looked for one solution that would evolve with them and Classworks is excited to keep meeting that challenge with technology that works for leaders, teachers, and students.

***"We continue to find new ways for Classworks to help us meet our instructional goals. As our needs change, Classworks is there with product enhancements and continual professional development. We believe our long-standing partnership with Classworks is a huge contributor to our ongoing success."***

*Mona S. Haynes, Director of Instructional Technology, Commerce City Schools*