

PROVIDING EDUCATORS WITH

# THE TOOLS NEEDED FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

“If you don’t give your teachers good tools, you can’t expect good outcomes.”

Debbie Hampton, Testing Supervisor, Maryville Christian School

Maryville Christian School is an inter-denominational Christian school located in Blount County nestled in the Foothills of the Smoky Mountains. Serving pre-K through 12th grade, Maryville focuses on preparing students for college and career readiness across the educational continuum. To help track student success, they turned to ACT Aspire.



### STANDOUT SCIENCE

Science was particularly challenging for Maryville Christian School.



### 95% STUDENT IMPROVEMENT

Nearly every student improved in science when moving from 7th to 8th grade.



### 12% DROP IN SUPPORT NEEDS

after one year of Aspire.

“That means 12% of our students are that much closer to being ready for college. We looked at the data. They are statistically doing better. That’s what you want to see and that’s exciting.”

Jeff Evans, Science Teacher, Maryville Christian School

ACT SOLUTIONS USED	<b>A</b>	The ACT	<b>AS</b>	ACT Aspire Summative	<b>AP</b>	ACT Aspire Periodic
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ACT® Aspire® provided Maryville Christian School with an assessment tool that reinforced skill proficiency and informed curriculum development.



Juniors and seniors at Maryville Christian School take the ACT to prepare for their next steps in life. To ensure both college and career readiness, Testing Supervisor Debbie Hampton needed a predictive system for tracking students from middle school through high school.

The school is using both the ACT Aspire periodic and summative assessments with the goal of measurement and informing instruction. In the periodic, they focus on the use of interims, given once per quarter in the first three quarters. Maryville started with Grades 6–10, adding 5th grade math and science in the second year of testing followed by all 5th grade tests the following year.

While the historically strong subjects of English and Reading got even better, the improvement in math and science was dramatic. Maryville Science Teacher Jeff Evans needed to know specific areas where students could improve so curriculum could be adapted accordingly. Aspire helped Evans do just that.

**“We love the turnaround – getting the results at the beginning of the quarter of what we should work on. The data is right in front of you and back that day. That changes the way I’m going to teach the next few days.”**

Jeff Evans, Science Teacher, Maryville Christian School

The focused instruction and evaluation led to an improvement in these same skills. After one year of Aspire, students in need of support dropped 12 percent. Nearly every student in the cohort improved when the 7th and 8th grade summative scores were compared.

The Aspire data also guides curriculum development. After analyzing the assessments, Maryville Christian did a complete overhaul of their K–8 math curriculum and hired a math instructional coach.

Aspire also helps direct student resources by helping to determine which students need to be on an honors track and which students need further remediation. The school also has fewer students in private ACT test prep programs.

Additionally, the longitudinal data informs conversations with parents, while helping teachers understand and work toward common goals. Students also like the score report’s correlation with work readiness based on ACT® National Career Readiness Certificate™ levels – platinum, gold, silver, and bronze.

**“One child was told they weren’t a candidate for college. After a year of Aspire, they’d improved tremendously. I brought the parent in and showed them a score saying their child could go to college.”**

Debbie Hampton, Testing Supervisor, Maryville Christian School

In the future, Maryville Christian School hopes to add Aspire testing for Grades 3–4 to better understand student success from the lowest grades and identify and address gaps early.

To find out more about the benefits of Aspire and how to offer it to your students, go to [www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-aspire.html](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-aspire.html).