

For the last year I have been experimenting with the triad math program in my classroom. If you have read my other testimonial on the first three tiers of the program you will know that I was deeply impressed with the information presented. You may also remember I felt students retained the information they had covered.

I have been spending some time going through the tier four section of the program to prepare for coaching and I must say I'm very excited. This is an impressive statement since the tier begins with fourteen lessons of my lifelong nemesis geometry. My personal struggles with this branch of mathematics notwithstanding I was able to drop right in and feel pretty comfortable. Since the program is designed with review in mind, I was able to back track to pertinent lessons in previous tiers if I didn't remember exactly what I needed to do. The real game changer though was lesson a5 titled an introduction to Wolfram Alpha.

For those of you who haven't heard of wolfram alpha its a computer program that helps explain math problems. Now I know what your thinking, because there are a lot of programs around the internet and the app stores that claim to help with math. If you're like me you have tried half a dozen of them and they work some of the time with certain problems. I spent three weeks working with Wolfram Alpha and it has not failed to help me with any type of problem I have tried. What's more Wolfram Alpha not only gives you the correct answer so you can check your solution it gives you a step by step break down of how it solved the problem so you can check your process. Each step is clearly labeled so if you don't understand whats being done you can ask your coach the appropriate questions to pinpoint exactly what you don't understand and maximize your learning. Its like having a personal math tutor with you whenever you are working through your math.

I really can't express how easy it was for me to go through tier 4 lessons once I understood how to use Wolfram Alpha and combined that with Dr. Dell's tutorial videos. I'm already planning to teach the rest of my staff how to use the program.