



Teachers and Students Earn Gold Stars at Montegut Elementary School using iStartSmart® Tablets

A Drastic Improvement in Outcomes with HatchSync powered by GOLD®

Montegut Elementary School

Nestled in the southern boot of Louisiana, the Montegut School has been educating students for over 100 years. This Title I school has not had Hatch® technology for long, but Montegut has not wasted any time using iStartSmart® tablets with HatchSync powered by GOLD® to ready their students for kindergarten.

Montegut's principal, Andrea Rodrigue, was familiar with Hatch – her previous center had Hatch technology and she saw first-hand how Hatch products worked effectively and produced results. After a mid-year, state-mandated child progress assessment, she identified some concerns with the children's learning outcomes and decided to bring in Hatch technology to address them.



Why Hatch?

Before Hatch technology, teachers at Montegut used ABC Mouse and other educational applications on one computer in each room. Though there were benefits to these apps, the teachers weren't satisfied with them; they didn't align with the curriculum and weren't producing the results that Rodrigue was hoping for. These shortcomings became evident after a mid-year assessment in December. At the time, the chances of the children reaching Louisiana's mandatory literacy levels looked glum. Montegut's teachers needed to improve the children's literacy and math skills, and were concerned that the current apps and technology were not supporting this goal.

So Rodrigue proposed replacing Montegut's current technology with Hatch technology. She was familiar with iStartSmart®, the research-based platform and subscription that features literacy and math activities to help get children kindergarten ready with just 30 minutes of game play per week. iStartSmart can be connected with HatchSync powered by GOLD® and delivers individual assessments and reports to teachers, detailing where children need additional support. iStartSmart activities aligned with Montegut's curriculum and had been successful in other school systems, making the iStartSmart tablets with HatchSync powered by GOLD® smart choices for Montegut.

Hatch technology was the right match for Montegut, but like many Title I schools, Montegut had to overcome a major obstacle: funding. But since Rodrigue and other teachers were such strong advocates for Hatch technology and its successful research-based programs, parents were just as eager as the faculty to get Hatch technology into their children's hands. The parents at Montegut offered to participate in match funding with the school in order to purchase the new technology.

The school's efforts paid off, and the faculty at Montegut was able to introduce the Hatch Technology shortly after the December mid-year assessment. With daily tablet





use, children at Montegut reached their state target levels by June of the same year. Rodrigue said she directly credits this drastic difference between the mid-year and end-of-year learning outcome reports to the implementation of Hatch technology.

How Montegut Uses Hatch

As a Title I elementary school, many of the children who attend Montegut do not have access to technology at home and are only exposed to tablets at school. While this digital divide could be seen as a disadvantage, Montegut teachers have leveraged it to increase the power of the technology. Since the iStartSmart tablets are a novelty to the children and are exclusively used in the classroom, Montegut's teachers can help build the association between the allure of technology and the joy of learning. Since technology plays such a

large role in today's world and will continue to do so in the future, the ability to implement technology into early childhood development in a productive way is extremely significant. Montegut does just this, and integrates iStartSmart tablets into a 30 minute "center time" session each morning. Using the class pack of three tablets, teachers have helped children improve their literacy and math levels as well as developed more social skills through the necessary turn taking and sharing.

Teachers have also benefitted in multiple ways from the introduction of iStartSmart tablets with HatchSync powered by GOLD®. The connection between HatchSync powered by GOLD® and iStartSmart allows teachers to gain insight for each GOLD® checkpoint, and use Hatch RMS reporting on a daily basis to inform small-group instruction. Teachers are more aware of which areas children are grasping and the ones where they need additional support, allowing them to adjust lesson plans accordingly and give the children individualized help when needed. This student-teacher connection, facilitated by HatchSync powered by GOLD®, has made teachers' lives at Montegut more streamlined, saved them time and allowed them to focus their attention on other things in the classroom. The automated process of transferring game play results from literacy and math skills to GOLD® has helped teachers obtain documentation more quickly to help with each GOLD® checkpoint.

Teachers at Montegut have also used GOLD® reports with iStartSmart game play results to offer activities that parents can teach children at home. This increased communication and collaboration between teachers and parents effectively rounds out the entire process by promoting continued learning outside of the classroom.

Learn more about [iStartSmart Tablets](#) and [HatchSync powered by GOLD®](#).



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