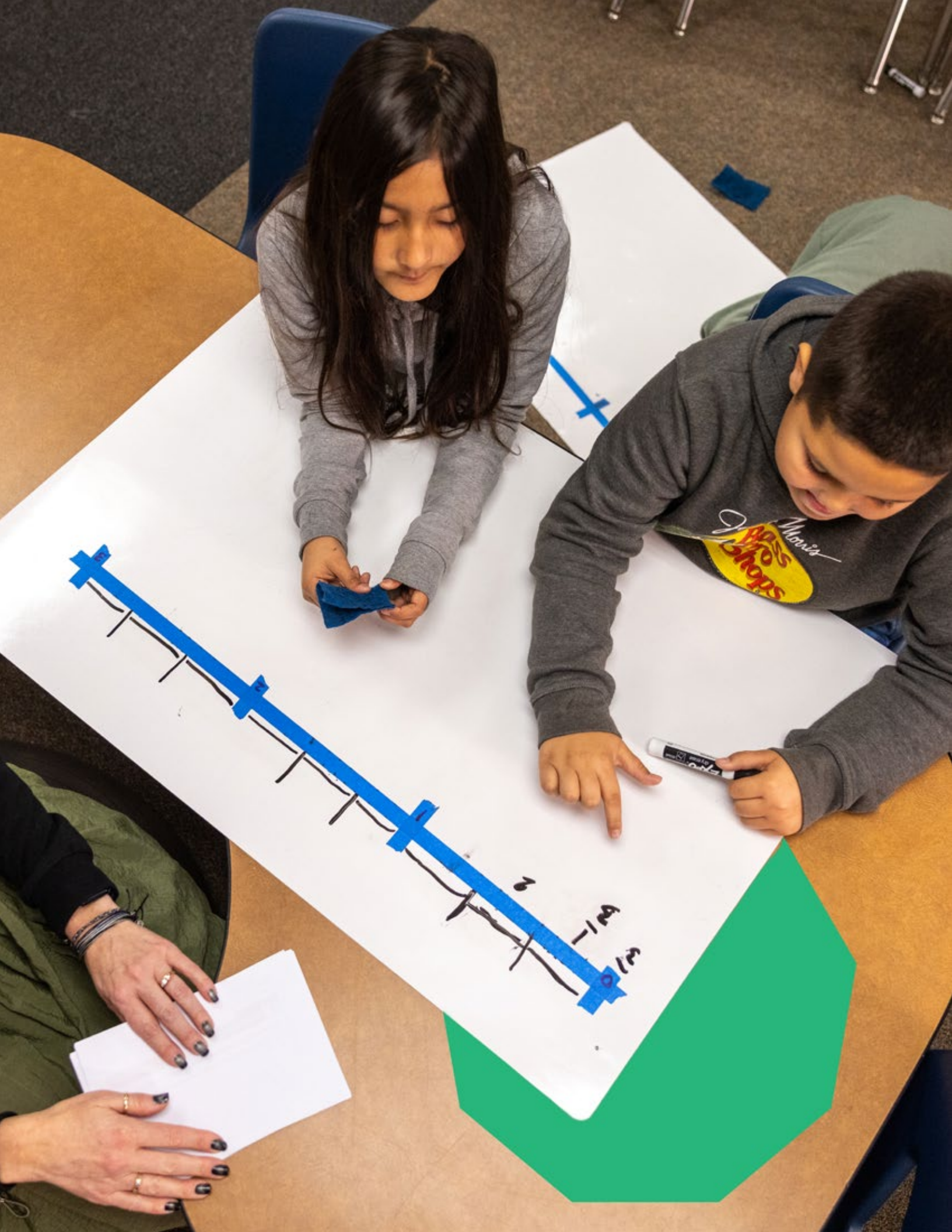
Core Curriculum

Grades K–5

Problem-Based Instruction: Making Unexpected Connections

Where curious learners become confident learners




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What Is Problem-Based Instruction?

Students learn math best by doing math

Problem-based instruction (PBI) puts students at the center of their learning. In K–5 classrooms, that means tackling meaningful problems, using hands-on tools, and exploring big ideas through visuals, stories, and discussion.



Instead of starting with a formula, Imagine IM lessons begin with a question — one that invites curiosity and multiple ways of thinking. PBI helps students make sense of math, not just memorize steps. It builds confidence and understanding that lasts far beyond the lesson by:

- **Starting with a question, not a formula**
- **Promoting sense-making, not memorization**
- **Building deep understanding, engagement, and retention**



"It was very much more collaborative, a lot more talking with students."

Stephanie P., Principal

How Does Imagine IM Enable PBI?

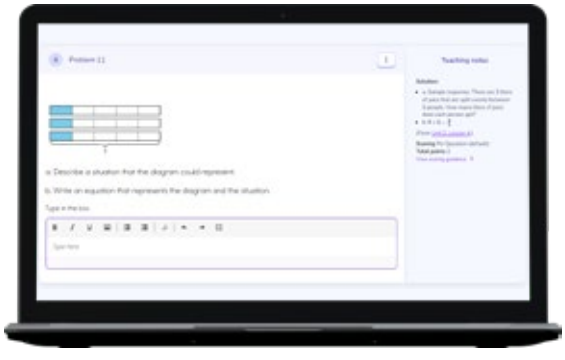
Structure, support, and flexibility for real classrooms

Imagine IM brings the power of problem-based instruction to life with a lesson structure that's consistent, supportive, and flexible for K–5 classrooms.

Every lesson follows a familiar flow from an open-ended warm-up to a reflective cool-down. Along the way, students explore, share strategies, and deepen understanding through purposeful activities.

- **Predictable lesson structure**:
  - Warm-Up → Activities → Synthesis → Cool-Down
- **Instructional routines** support reasoning, collaboration, and confidence
- **Teacher Guides** include pacing support, guiding questions, and scaffolds
- **Math Language Routines (MLRs)** help students build academic vocabulary and voice

	Invitation to the Mathematics	Deep Study of Concepts and Procedures	Consolidating and Applying
Course Level	Invitational Unit	Deep Study Units	Consolidation Unit
Unit Level	Introductory Lesson	Instructional Lessons	Culminating Lesson
Lesson Level	Warm-up	Classroom Activities	Synthesis and Cool-down
Activity Level	Launch	Work Time	Synthesis





How Does PBI Engage *All* K–5 Students?

Access, equity, and identity in every lesson

Problem-based instruction is for everyone. Imagine IM lessons are intentionally designed to welcome all learners, with tasks that invite multiple strategies, visual models that support comprehension, and culturally relevant contexts that reflect students' lives.

In Imagine IM, every student can contribute their thinking and every voice is valued through:

- **Tasks that encourage productive struggle and student-led thinking**
- **Real-world problems and visual models** that keep learning meaningful
- **Supports for multilingual learners**, including sentence frames and visuals



"You just have to let go and trust the process, and it's just been absolutely amazing!"

Jennifer M., Third-Grade Teacher

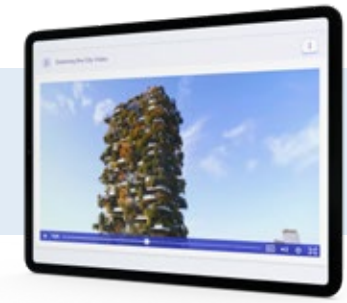
Technology and Tools That Power PBI

Built for exploration, in class or at home.

Imagine IM includes flexible digital tools that bring lessons to life. Whether students are using virtual manipulatives or engaging with fluency games, the technology supports curiosity, connection, and deep mathematical thinking:

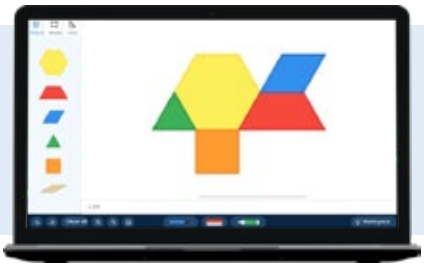
Inspire Math Videos

Inspire Math Videos introduce and revisit concepts through real-world problems



Digital Centers

Digital centers build fluency through playful, interactive games



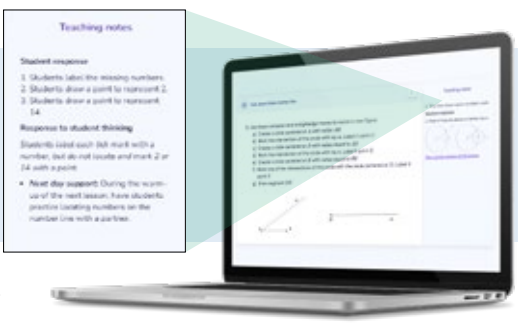
Virtual Manipulatives

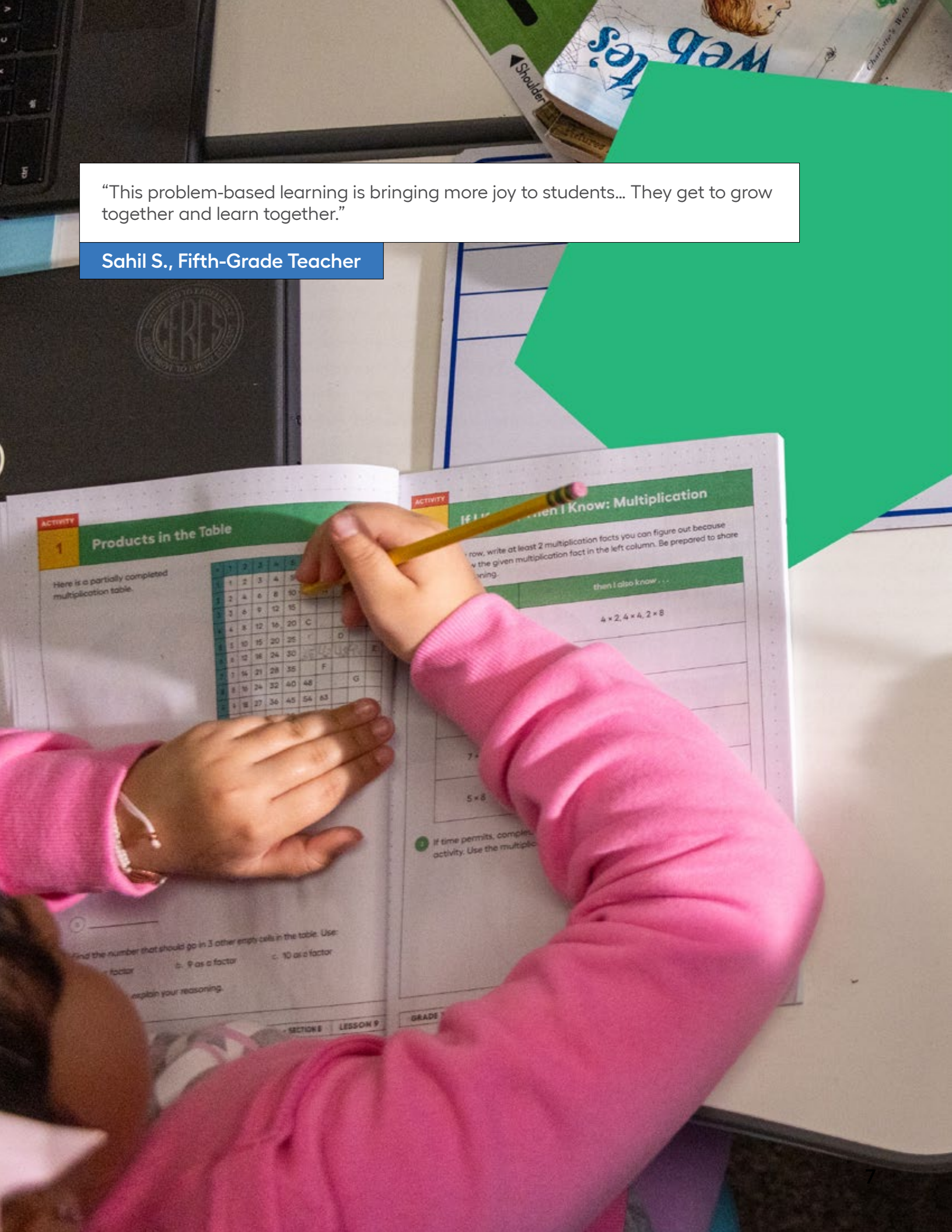
Virtual manipulatives and digital tasks support conceptual learning



Teacher Tools

Teacher tools including Live Learn, Annotation tools, and Dashboards support real-time engagement and responsive instruction





"This problem-based learning is bringing more joy to students... They get to grow together and learn together."

Sahil S., Fifth-Grade Teacher

Imagine IM makes problem-based instruction practical, purposeful, and joyful for students and teachers alike.

- Fully aligned to **college- and career-ready math standards**
- Supports **conceptual understanding, fluency, and collaboration**
- Available **in print + digital, English** and **Spanish**
- Includes **hands-on kits** and **fluency centers** for Grades K–5

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