

# Real Talk with I Harris Hill Elementary School, Penfield, New York

Education

“We’re always looking for ways to make teachers’ lives more efficient and more effective, and Ignite does that. It has changed our test process from simply grading to understanding each student’s needs, recognizing patterns and turning data into instructional strategies.”

—Marc Nelson, *Principal*,  
Harris Hill Elementary School, Penfield, NY



## Our Challenge

“Our primary challenges are implementing the Common Core standards and making sense of the tremendous amount of data that’s placed on us from a state and federal level. We need to meet these mandates in a way that makes sense for kids, focusing on the whole child instead of just on common data points.”

## Our Solution

“Xerox® Ignite™ has made the consumption of data more efficient and more effective for our teachers. We’re able to plug the Common Core standards into our assessments and look at where students are having difficulties or struggling with specific skills. It’s taking data and correlating it to solid instructional practices that meet our students’ needs.”

## Our Results

- Automatic identification of gaps, skill struggles and patterns in each student’s learning process
- Correlation of student data into personalized instructional strategies
- Minimal time spent grading papers, freeing teachers to focus on lesson planning
- Integrated implementation of and compliance with national Common Core learning standards
- Variety of assessment reports, including student progress, test question results, district-wide trends and more

“Xerox® Ignite™ takes away the burden of grading papers and frees my time so I can concentrate on creative lesson planning. It’s an essential tool in my teacher toolbox. I can’t imagine teaching without it.”

—Pat McDonald, *Fourth Grade Teacher*,  
Harris Hill Elementary School, Penfield, NY



### Re-energizing Teachers’ Workflow with Ignite

Harris Hill Elementary School in Penfield, New York, is committed to open, collaborative education. There are no classroom walls and teachers work together to help the school’s 500 students learn and grow. It’s only natural that the school and district of 5,000 students would be open to visionary ideas, as demonstrated by their use of Xerox® Ignite, an innovative new teaching tool.

### Knowing What Students Know

“We’re continually looking for efficient ways to assess what the students are able to know, understand and do,” explains Marc Nelson, Harris Hill Principal.

“Ignite makes the tiring process of grading a more reflective process. It helps teachers evaluate what the students demonstrate. Why did the student make that mistake? What is a different course? What patterns are emerging?”

These insights are particularly valuable in light of Harris Hill’s primary challenges: national Common Core learning standards and the onslaught of data from state and federal agencies.

“A student may be struggling with a specific skill associated with the Common Core and our teachers can now look for patterns and say, ‘What do I need to do as a teacher to meet the needs of that individual student?’ Ignite helps us make sense of the data and use it for future instruction.”

### Spotting Trouble Spots

With Ignite, student check-ins are scanned into a Xerox® multifunction device that reads student handwriting. Tests are automatically graded, then validated by teachers before Ignite generates assessment reports.

“I can pinpoint exactly where kids are struggling,” says Kevin Hauer, a Harris Hill second grade teacher, “and focus on the facts they don’t know, targeting the areas they need the most help with.”

Pat McDonald, a Harris Hill fourth grade teacher with 32 years of experience, appreciates Ignite’s elimination of “drudgery”:

“Ignite helps me focus on the things that matter most. Instead of hand-scoring papers and collating data, I’m forming instructional groups and concentrating on creative lesson planning.”

### By Teachers, for Teachers

One reason Ignite has been embraced by teachers is the fact it was designed with their help. Xerox collected the feedback of educators, many of whom said that grading papers and compiling data were among their most tiresome tasks. Ignite streamlines both.

Parents are equally impressed. According to Hauer:

“We print out graphs that chart the student’s growth, so parents can see where their child is strong and where they’re weak.”

“When students move from kindergarten to first grade and so on, you can look for instructional patterns,” adds Principal Nelson. “That helps you put each student in the best possible learning environment. I can also look at classroom and grade-level profiles to make sure we deliver the appropriate education and differentiation inside every classroom.”

### Partnering on the Students’ Part

“The technical aspect of something like Ignite can be daunting,” continues Nelson. “But Xerox walked us through the implementation.”