



**MathAmigo. Your Helping Hand.**

**Valiant USA**

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News Release

For Immediate Release

**Valiant USA Announces Nationwide Launch of *MathAmigo*<sup>™</sup>**

*New handheld software offers thousands of standards-based math activities, no repeat questions; helps improve student learning and meet NCLB requirements*

FOREST PARK, Ill. (Jan. 27, 2005) – Valiant USA, developer and provider of innovative K-12 science- and math-based technology products, announces the nationwide launch of *MathAmigo*, the K-8 standards-based math software for handhelds including Palm OS devices and the AlphaSmart Dana.

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act is creating an intense focus on math scores, requiring schools to measure students' progress annually from grades 3-8 beginning in 2005. The U.S. Department of Education states on its website, "Math is a critical skill in the information age. We must improve achievement to maintain our economic leadership. While technology advances with lightning speed, stagnant math performance in schools shortchanges our students' future and endangers our prosperity and our nation's security." U.S. students continue to lag behind their peers in math, ranking 24th out of 39 countries on the 2003 Program for International Student Assessment, an internationally standardized test.

*MathAmigo* features more than 2,500 standards-based activities on topics ranging from counting to pre-algebra for grades K-8. The activities test students' understanding of concepts, offer an engaging platform to practice their knowledge and encourage problem solving. The versatility of the software allows educators to use it in whole class teaching, group work, individual study, summer school, homework or after-school programs. Students can use *MathAmigo* daily without repeating the same question. The PC-based *MathAmigo* Manager enables teachers to quickly and easily organize and plan daily math lessons individualized to each student. Students instantly 'sync' activities to their handhelds, and upon completion, the activities are immediately sent to and scored on the teacher's desktop. Teachers can create formative and summative assessment reports, which illustrate where they must focus their efforts to improve student learning on specific standards. *MathAmigo* was piloted in several schools in the United States before the announcement today.

MORE



*How People Learn*, a 1999 report from the National Research Council, outlines sound educational principles established by research. *MathAmigo* fully embodies these principles to further students understanding and application of knowledge. “We designed *MathAmigo* to help teachers understand where students are, where they need to be and how to effectively achieve the goals of individualized math teaching for each student.” explained Dave Catlin, managing director of Valiant USA. “We paired our program with the cost-effectiveness and portability of handhelds to support the way educators teach in the classroom.”

As schools strive for one-to-one computing, handheld use in the classroom is rapidly growing. More than 29 percent of districts use handhelds for instruction and 77 percent of districts intend to purchase them in the next two years, according to QED’s *2004-2005 Technology Purchasing Forecast*. A growing amount of research supports the use of handhelds as an effective instructional tool. SRI International’s Center for Technology in Learning conducted several studies and found that 72 percent of teachers said handhelds were easier to integrate into classroom activities than desktop computers, and 93 percent of teachers believed the devices have a positive impact on student learning.

With the *MathAmigo* system, teachers and students save time in and out of the classroom. The system saves students up to 25 percent of time on task in any lesson, which frees up more time for learning. On average, for every hour in the classroom, teachers spend an hour preparing, grading, assessing and creating reports. *MathAmigo* reduces these tasks to a few clicks of the mouse—it takes approximately one minute to prepare the work for a class for one month.

*MathAmigo* works with any Palm device running Palm OS version 4 or above, the Sony Clio, the Handspring Visor and the AlphaSmart Dana. For schools without these handhelds, a Classic *MathAmigo* device is available. For more information, visit [www.mathamigo.com](http://www.mathamigo.com) or phone 888-366-6628.

### **About Valiant USA**

Valiant USA, based in Forest Park, Ill., is a wholly owned subsidiary of Valiant Technology, Ltd., headquartered in London. Valiant USA was established in 2004, and serves the K-12 U.S. education market. The company’s mission is to provide educational technology products that help students fulfill their potential by teaching them to think, to understand and to use their knowledge in creative and positive ways. The company’s science- and math-based product line includes robotic educational tools, *Roamer*™ and *Turtle*; the design technology kit, *Inventa*™; and the electronics kit, *Tronix*™; as well as the new math software for handhelds, *MathAmigo*™. Valiant Technology has won numerous prestigious awards including the Queen’s Awards for Enterprise: Innovation 2002, the BETT Award for Best Primary Product in 1999 and two products were designated as Millennium Products by the British Council.

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