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Adding up the wins

Cassy Turner has found that combining math learning with baseball makes a winning equation.

Turner, a third-grade teacher at Benchmark School in Phoenix, coaches 15 students in an after-school math club. Divided into three teams called the Brainbusters, Math Warriors and the Math Mavens, the kids play an Internet-based math game called Batter Up!, which offers a fun way for students to learn their basic math skills while trying to achieve the highest "batting average."

Recently, the three teams swept the top three places among third-graders during a state competition. In early May, the group traveled to the National Math Bee in Birmingham, Ala., where the Brainbusters placed fourth in addition, multiplication and division. The other two teams also did well.

Leaders from the Arizona Public Schools Making a Difference Every Day Campaign said that Turner and her math-whiz students are a classic example of the good work that goes on every day in local schools.

Turner said that she is extremely proud of all of her students who competed.

"They are all so fast at basic computation and facts now, and they are so accurate, they'll be able to do more problem solving now, and it will be easier for them."

