

HAMILTON STUDENTS VISIT WITH ALGEBRA NATION REPRESENTATIVE



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Some people can comprehend math better than others, so the more interaction they can receive means the quicker they can come to a problem's solution. To help students comprehend Algebra I, schools in Monroe County have access to the interactive online resource Algebra Nation, which is a little bit of social networking and YouTube rolled into one.

Algebra Nation representative, Chelsea Jones, recently visited Hamilton students to deliver prize packages and hear first-hand how the instructional tool is helping them comprehend better.

"This helps them. There are study experts to help and the incentive to revisit concepts they've been taught so they don't forget before state tests," said Hamilton High School algebra teacher Linda Isbell.

The program started in 2013 as a partnership with the University of Florida and has expanded to other locations throughout the nation, including 33 Mississippi pilot school districts.

"There are four different study experts, and students can choose who they like the best," Jones said. "There's a test yourself component with a 10-question quiz for each section. The questions are closely aligned with state tests."

There's also an Algebra Wall where students and study experts can network about certain problems from the accompanying student material. Teachers also have the same access to resources and ways to collaborate with other educators.

“Students can earn karma points when they help other people with problems. It allows them to feel encouraged,” Jones said.

During her visit, Jones awarded Stacy Ryals with an iPad and Cassie Barnes and Rylan Fast with prize packs for having the most karma points in the state.

Although Algebra Nation is geared toward Algebra I, there’s an on-ramp tool acting as a bridge from more fundamental math classes to help students prepare for Algebra I.