**Sound Of Fractions Preliminary Concept Study**

Who

The Third Lab ( <http://thirdlab.cs.vt.edu/> ) at Virginia Tech is seeking to work with school districts to begin preliminary studies with a novel approach to teach part/whole concepts and fraction math to struggling students through music, with our developed application Sound Of Fractions. The Third Lab has helped create several successful teaching programs, aids, and curriculum for the K-12 and higher education academic institutions.

What

We will be conducting research through combined instruction with a teacher to teach the system of fractions through a new setting, by starting with clapping and drumming challenges, discussion, and instruction that will lead to using an online webpage. This scaffold approach will help align our research to the requirements and goals of the students, teacher, school, and state.

When

Given that the strong competition in academic research, this project should begin immediately to begin collaboration with the appropriate teaching staff to select the appropriate group of students for small group feedback. To test the methodology, application, and provide sufficient initial data for scientific review, we need to do an initial observation of the classroom, with no instruction or recording protected information. We then would need to hold 5 – 10 sessions with each group of students. This will depend on classroom availability, and how the research project unfolds to accommodate the students’ needs along with the research goals.

Where

We can travel to your school and work with a principal, teacher, and instructional directors to help implement this study with your students. We would like to schedule a brief meeting with the principal and teacher between Tuesday, February 17 and Friday, February 20, 2015, followed by the initial classroom viewing during the same period time.

How

It is important to note that this research project is in its beginning stages, and that small-scale personal instruction is necessary to test, debug, and get feedback with students to progress the research. The Virginia Tech Institutional Review Board (IRB) has reviewed the initial study and approved the study per the guidelines for safety, ethical, research, and institutional concerns per IRB# 14-831 [ <http://thirdlab.cs.vt.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/VT-IRB-14-831-Approval-Letter.pdf> ].

If you need any more information to expedite this wonderful opportunity with your school or district, please contact the Third Lab at [thirdlab@cs.vt.edu](mailto:thirdlab@cs.vt.edu) in regards to this Sound Of Fractions study.