

## testzone *by Dawn Kessler*



REAL-LIFE LOOK

# CONQUERING CALCULATIONS



Like many of you, math was difficult for Milford, CT student Julianne D'lorio to grasp, especially since her middle-school teacher aimed lessons toward the few kids who caught on quickly.

"In one week we would cover a whole chapter. It was a lot to take in at one time," explains Julianne, an otherwise stellar student. It's no wonder going into her freshman year of high school last September and facing algebra was frightening to think about.

That's until she met her ninth-grade teacher, Mr. Forte, who was implementing a new computer-based program called Cognitive Learning, developed by Carnegie Learning, a PA-based educational software company. In addition to regular classroom instruction, Julianne's class spent two days in a computer lab solving real-world problems. Their progress was a component of their final grade.

"Problems actually applied to real life," explains Julianne. "For example, in geometry, it gave you a diagram of a room. Or, it used the examples of divers into water to explain negative numbers." Even better, you learn at your own pace, she says, since the program is designed to make sure you master a topic before you move on.

Between Mr. Forte's dedication to helping everyone understand, and the reinforcement and practice provided by the lab hours, Julianne earned an A! More importantly, she learned the most important math lesson: "Ask for help as much as you can. Like Mr. Forte says, someone who asks a question may feel dumb for five minutes, but someone who doesn't ask will feel dumb forever."

*For more information on Cognitive Learning, surf [www.carnegielearning.com](http://www.carnegielearning.com).*