All KIPP Chicago schools have the same mission: to ensure students are empowered with the character and academic skills necessary to succeed in top-quality high schools and universities, to be happy in the competitive world, and to have a positive impact on their communities. Using extended class days and a mantra that emphasizes commitment to excellence and high expectations, KIPP Chicago is also delivering results: 96 percent of its founding class has graduated from high school and 92 percent has matriculated to college.

KIPP Create College Prep Middle School, opened in fall 2012, builds on the successful KIPP academic model by blending instructional technology with proven, high-quality teaching methods. Students spend nearly half their day engaged in individualized learning at their own pace, on their own device, with curriculum that’s tailored to their own level of understanding.

A critical component of each day is a “Power Hour” housed within a flexible Learning Lab space. There, students use high-quality videos, tutorials, and interactive content from providers such as ST Math, Typing Pal, and i-Ready to practice key competencies on their own and in teams based on an individual learning plan. Each student’s learning plan is developed following summer testing and refined throughout the year through ongoing assessment. The Learning Lab includes individual workstations, as well as areas for one-on-one support with teachers and small group remediation.

"Teachers are still incredibly important in the classroom as the deciding factor about what happens in the class. But what teachers are doing within this space is very different—how they are using data, how they are creating lessons, how they are providing custom support and remediation.”
At each step, student performance data are captured, displayed in user-friendly dashboards, and used by teachers to gauge student progress and pinpoint areas of concern. Similar data dashboards provide feedback to students and parents anytime, anywhere. Teachers are a key component of the model. The model hinges on KIPP’s belief that teachers are still incredibly important in the classroom as the deciding factor about what happens in the class. But what teachers are doing within this space is very different — how they are using data, how they are creating lessons, how they are providing custom support and remediation.

KIPP classrooms utilize flexible seating and moveable furniture to enable various configurations and learning zones throughout the day depending on the classroom activity. During the daily “Power Hour,” for example, a single space might accommodate teacher-led instruction, group work, and individual computer work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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