

THRIVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HANDS-ON, MINDS-ON ENGAGEMENT ENHANCED BY TECHNOLOGY

“Students today need to learn how to be adaptable and reflective, employing critical thinking skills and creativity in a variety of contexts. Our schools must also be adaptable and reflective, flexibly meeting the needs of each and every one of our students.”

NICOLE TEMPEL ASSISI, FOUNDER

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ New School
- ✓ Station Rotation, Lab Rotation, and Flex Blended Model
- ✓ Competency-Based Learning
- ✓ Project-Based and Experiential Learning
- ✓ Social-Emotional Development

AT A GLANCE:

Start Date: Fall 2014
Grades Served: K-8
Location: San Diego, CA
Operator: Thrive Public Schools
Operator Type: Charter
Setting: Urban
Students at Start: 60
Students at Capacity: 750

MODEL TOOLBOX:

Student Information System & Gradebook: Illuminate

Assessment Tools and Approaches: Illuminate, NWEA/MAP, DIBELS Performance-based Assessment, Exhibitions, Student-Led Conferences

Digital Content Providers: ST Math, Think Through Math, Khan Academy, Activate, Reading Plus, Razz, Lexia Core 5, Brain Pop, other OER as needed.

Hardware: K-4: iPads, Chromebooks; 5-8: Chromebooks 1:1, iPads. Afterschool: desktop minilab. Teachers: Chromebooks, desktops, iPads

The Vision: Imagine a school that is flexible enough to meet the needs of every student it serves. Imagine a school that adapts to the needs and strengths and passions of those students. Imagine a school where students learn by tinkering, getting their hands on real live objects to create a solution to a real live problem. Imagine a school with “Just Right Instruction” where each student learns what he or she needs when he or she needs it.

Thrive Public Schools’ founders didn’t want to only imagine this school, they decided to build it. Thrive is a K-8 charter school in San Diego that prepares students to be community-minded, college-prepared, and career-inspired.

The Academic Model: Thrive is designed to serve a population of students that has increasingly become disengaged from traditional school models. Thrive balances tech-infused learning with hands-on, minds-on engagement to cultivate excitement, motivation, and passion in students whose needs have not been met in more traditional settings. Thrive expands the concept of school beyond core academics to encompass social-emotional intelligence and “real world” understanding.

The blended learning model at Thrive integrates technology throughout a curriculum built upon project-based learning, targeted instruction, and tinkering. Students progress at their own pace, receiving targeted support and instruction as needed to ensure they master content before moving on. A personalized learning plan for each student tracks goals, modalities, and growth. Students have multiple opportunities to devel-

op and demonstrate depth and complexity as they apply learning in different contexts.

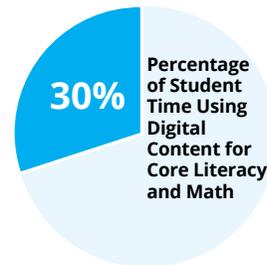
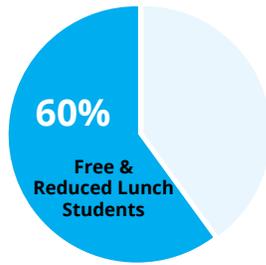
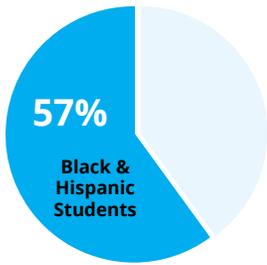
Through **project-based learning**, students learn subject-matter content in cross-disciplinary teacher-created projects where they use technology to research, design, invent, film, edit, record, experiment, build, create, and present. Teachers personalize learning and foster students’ active ownership over their learning through interactive digital learning programs that provide instant data for teachers and real-time feedback for students and parents.

Creative and inquisitive thinking is cultivated by **exploratory learning** in tinkering, robotics, visual and performing arts, engineering, and community-based experiences. And families are supported to become a source of **family-facilitated learning** through engaging, fun learning opportunities rich in technology, rather than “homework.”

Social-emotional learning is interwoven throughout the school’s model, emphasizing students’ self-actualization through high standards for student behavior, applied learning, student choice, and continuous feedback. This involves solid decision-making, self-regulation, self-reflection, and learning from struggles, trial, and error.

The Organizational Model: To create deeper relationships with teachers and their peers and to increase personalization, students are grouped in mixed age clusters after Kindergarten, and “loop” with the same teacher-teams for two years.

Teachers participate in ongoing data reviews to make certain that all



BLENDED SUBJECTS:
English language arts, Math

BY THE NUMBERS:

Year 1 public revenue per pupil: \$9,846
 Year 1 expenses per pupil: \$9,715
 Year 4 revenue per pupil: \$9,361
 Year 4 expenses per pupil: \$8,749
 Years to sustainability: 2

students are achieving academically. They review data collaboratively to plan necessary lessons, interventions, and instructional strategies to help each and every student succeed. Additionally, teachers set up and support student-led conferences, where students present their data and goals to their families.

Thrive's leaders recognize that the innovative school model presents challenges for teachers and that's why they provide teachers almost 300 hours annually for collaborative planning, data review, and professional development. Teacher PD is experiential, collaborative, sustained, and intensive, supported by modeling, coaching, and problem solving.

With Illuminate, Thrive is creating an "Are Students Thriving" Dash-

board that integrates data from multiple digital learning programs. Eventually, the dashboard system will allow Thrive's educators to identify quickly where extra supports are needed, assign coaching, help drive instructional decision-making, and provide a portal for parents and students. This is still a work in progress.

The Operator: Thrive Public Schools is a new charter management organization, founded to create a blueprint for change in public education. Building upon prior experiences at three highly successful charter organizations, High Tech High, Camino Nuevo and Da Vinci Schools, Thrive's leaders know that their model can be sustained on California's public revenues, which are among the lowest in the nation. They envision Thrive as a



The greater purpose of learning at Thrive is not only to learn to DO, but also to learn to BE. The model personalizes learning to create great human *doings*—and human *beings*.

network of schools that demonstrates a cost-effective model of public education that can readily be replicated in other communities.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Targeted Instruction Community Time Project Based Exploratory Learning

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00-8:50	Family Facilitated Learning				
9:00-9:45	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
9:45-10:55	ELA Rotation	ELA Rotation	Flex Time (ELA or Math)	ELA Rotation	ELA Rotation
11:00-12:10	Math Rotation	Math Rotation		Math Rotation	Math Rotation
12:15-1:00	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch 12:20 Dismissal 12:40	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
1:00-2:00	Project Based Learning Science	Project Based Learning Science	Teacher Professional Development and Planning 1:00-3:00	Project Based Learning Science	Project Based Learning Science
2:10-3:05	Exploratory	Exploratory		Exploratory	Exploratory
3:05-3:15	Afternoon Meeting	Afternoon Meeting		Afternoon Meeting	Afternoon Meeting
3:15-4:15	Family Facilitated Learning				

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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