

# DA VINCI SCHOOLS

## DA VINCI COMMUNICATIONS

PROVIDING HANDS-ON, REAL WORLD LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

“ We want to break the construct of high school as an isolated silo, and open school walls to incorporate college, industry, online and other holistic experiences. By providing hands-on, real world opportunities, students develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, and become more engaged, motivated, self-confident and successful in college and beyond. ”

NICOLE ASSISI, DA VINCI SCHOOLS

### KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ New School
- ✓ Flipped Classroom and Lab Rotation Blended Model
- ✓ Project-Based Experiential Learning
- ✓ Higher Education Partnerships
- ✓ Flexible Learning Spaces

### AT A GLANCE:

**Start Date:** Fall 2013

**Grades Served:** 9-13

**Location:** Hawthorne, CA

**Operator:** Da Vinci Schools

**Operator Type:** Charter

**Setting:** Urban

**Students at Start:** 64

**Students at Capacity:** 290

### MODEL TOOLBOX:

**Learning Management System:**  
Weebly websites

**Student Information System & Gradebook:** PowerSchool

**Assessment Tools and Approaches:**  
Project-based assessments, traditional essays and tests by teachers

**Digital Content Providers:** ALEKS, Rosetta Stone, SCOUT Notes

**Hardware:** PC Laptops

Da Vinci Schools aims to break down the walls of school, literally. Students will not simply “go” to school to have learning directed at them, but rather, school will exist in, around, and through them, without limitation of setting and time.

Da Vinci Communications launched in fall 2013 to serve racially and socio-economically diverse students in Los Angeles through a highly personalized, student-centered approach by integrating online learning (in a supervised campus lab or at home) and dynamic project-based classroom learning, college courses (online, brick-and-mortar, and blended), internships, and authentic “real world” experience. This is the CMO’s fourth school.

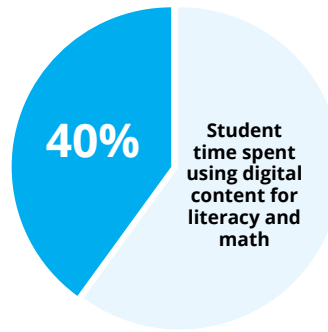
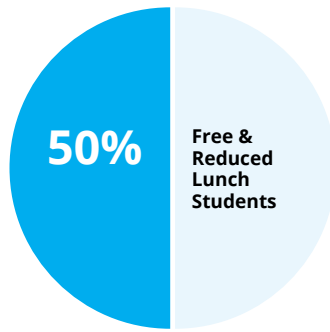
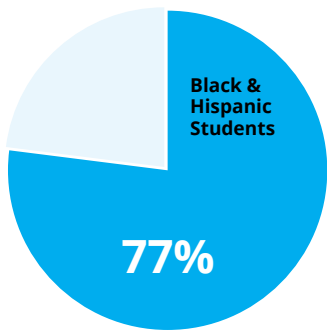
At its core, the model is designed around the student. Using a flipped model, students are introduced to new content online and then apply their learning and develop deeper understanding through hands on, inquiry-based exploration in the classroom. Depending on their proficiency level, passion, and needs, each student’s individualized learning plan

will encompass targeted interventions and supports to ensure their success.

Throughout the day, students rotate between small group instruction, collaborative group work, online learning lab time, advisory, internships, project labs, and meetings with industry experts and lecturers. School space is practical and flexible with versatile furniture to maximize tinkering, small group instruction, and seminars.

Project based learning underpins Da Vinci’s model and much thought has been put into designing engaging and enriching activities. Collaborative teams develop interdisciplinary, real-world projects that bring professional practice into the classroom. Projects are planned by teams that may include Da Vinci faculty, industry experts, college faculty and students. Core curriculum and assessment is linked to the California college preparatory requirements and Common Core Standards. Da Vinci works with the Buck Institute for Education to train teachers to be facilitators of project-based learning, in addition

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**BLENDED SUBJECTS:**  
Math, Literacy, Foreign Language, College Credit, Electives

## BY THE NUMBERS:

**Year 1 public revenue per pupil:**  
\$7,050

**Year 1 expenses per pupil:**  
\$10,041

**Year 4 revenue per pupil:**  
\$7,609

**Year 4 expenses per pupil:**  
\$6,417

**Years to sustainability:** 1

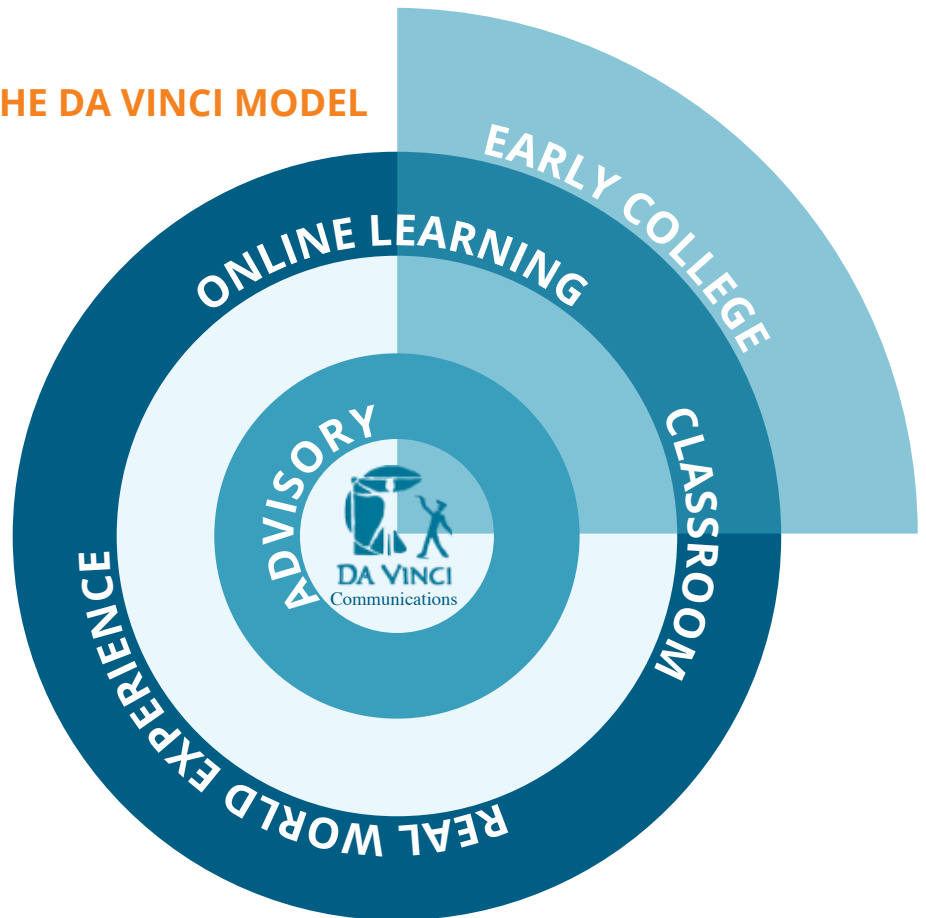
to using its own project creation process developed in house.

Da Vinci Students are trained, taught, and assessed on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in addition to content knowledge. Students complete projects in groups and work with industry experts to create meaningful products. In these environments, students receive grades and feedback on their collaboration and communication abilities and performance. Students reflect and present on these skills in addition to defending their learning from the semester's projects in a formal 20 minute "Presentation of Learning."

Da Vinci's blended learning model represents a natural entry point for students to incorporate college courses into their high school program, all within the support and structure of a small high school environment. In partnership with California Community Colleges, Da Vinci is creating opportunities for Da Vinci students to earn college credits while they are still in high school, providing exposure, rigor, and a scaffold toward a pathway to success in higher education. Students benefit from easy access to college classes, extensive counseling and academic support, and a streamlined transfer process.

Da Vinci's new model aims to transform public education by grad-

## THE DA VINCI MODEL



Students spend 30-50 percent of their time learning online, 30-50 percent of their time involved in dynamic project based learning with high quality instructors, and 20 percent of their time in internships, tinkering labs and real world experiences. The addition of early college classes and small group and individual advisories help round out the student experience.

uating college ready students, while also addressing many of the common roadblocks to college completion. Da Vinci Communications students will develop the content mastery, skills, self-confidence and motivation and

receive the support they need to succeed in college and after.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

School URL: <http://davincischools.org/dvca.shtm>

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