

THE GREAT OAKS FOUNDATION

GREAT OAKS CHARTER SCHOOL OF NEW YORK CITY

PERSONALIZED LEARNING THROUGH INTENSIVE TUTORING AND AN ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM

“Through the example of Great Oaks schools, we are attempting to promote an idea – that personalized learning underpinned by intensive tutoring with a robust online platform and student mastery can be a powerful new paradigm for organizing a school.”

MICHAEL DUFFY, PRESIDENT, GREAT OAKS FOUNDATION

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ New School
- ✓ Individual Rotation Blended Model
- ✓ Competency-Based Learning
- ✓ Extended Learning Time
- ✓ Flexible Learning Spaces

AT A GLANCE:

Start Date: Fall 2013

Grades Served: 6-12

Location: New York, NY

Operator: The Great Oaks Foundation

Operator Type: Charter

Setting: Urban

Students at Start: 99

Students at Capacity: 430

MODEL TOOLBOX:

Learning Management System: Moodle, Kunskapsskolan Learning Portal

Student Information System: PowerSchool

Gradebook: PowerSchool

Assessment Tools and Approaches: Edusoft, MAP, Achievement Network, and NYSED State Exams

Implementation Partners: Kunskapsskolan

Digital Content Providers: Khan Academy, Apex Learning, Rosetta Stone

Hardware: Google Chrome Books (students and tutors), MacBook Air (teachers and administrators)

The Vision: What would happen if you combined the personalized instruction embodied in the tutor corps model developed by Match Education in Boston with the blended learning program of the Kunskapsskolan schools of Sweden? It is at this intersection of approaches where the Great Oaks Charter School of New York City enters the landscape of breakthrough models. Located in lower Manhattan, its vision is to serve English language learners in particular by providing each student with a learning experience that is completely tailored to her or his needs and learning goals.

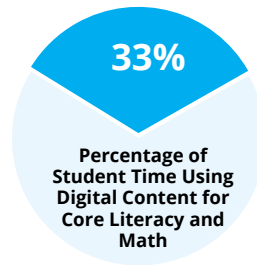
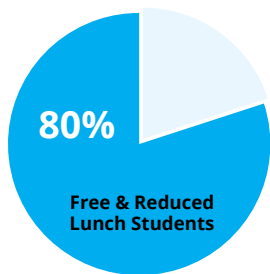
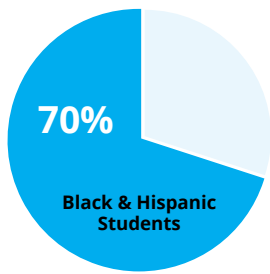
The Academic Model: The learning at GO-NYC involves teacher-led lessons, sustained tutoring sessions, and customized online content. An experienced teacher leads students through rigorous and interesting lessons in a group setting. The teacher-led lessons are augmented by at least two hours of personalized tu-

toring every day for every student. Working with students one-on-one or in small groups, tutors pitch their instruction at the exact level the student needs. Tutors work with the same students every day so they get to know them well.

GO-NYC's model incorporates the mastery-based Kunskapsskolan USA (KUSA) Learning Portal™ and KUSA's personalized coaching. Used in 40 schools across Sweden, England, and India, the Learning Portal houses Common Core-aligned curriculum, assignments, and assessments that are curated and regularly updated. The lessons are vibrant and engaging, paced by students' mastery of the subject matter. Students, families, teachers, and tutors all have the same level of access to the Learning Portal, fostering a shared understanding of learning objectives and accountability standards. Teachers and tutors help students identify the combination of tasks that will fa-

KUSA LEARNING PORTAL

The screenshot displays the KUSA Learning Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Steps', 'Themes', 'EDG', and 'Teacher Pages'. The main content area is titled 'Computer Step 1 ELA' and features a lesson titled 'Understanding Binary Number System'. The lesson content includes a sub-section 'Introduction Step Presentation' and a text block stating 'Digital electronics are a part of everyone's daily life, but not many of them give a second'. To the right, there is a 'Goals & Tasks' sidebar with two items: 'Recognising Binary numbers' and 'Cracking Binary codes'. The interface also includes 'Print' and 'Listen' buttons, and a 'Steps' dropdown menu set to 'Step 1'.



BLENDED SUBJECTS:
Math, English/
Language Arts

BY THE NUMBERS:

Year 1 public revenue per pupil: \$18,941

Year 1 expenses per pupil: \$17,521

Year 4 revenue per pupil: \$16,544

Year 4 expenses per pupil: \$15,999

Years to sustainability: 2

cilitate their mastery of tasks, then document their progress and provide supplemental support. Tutors provide weekly coaching sessions as a personalized and shared system of accountability around individual student's learning goals. To learn more about the KUSA program, visit <http://www.kunskapsskolan.com/>.

The blended learning approach enabled by the Learning Portal together with the tutoring approach allows GO-NYC students to take ownership of their learning. The tutor can assist students when they get stuck with a task in the Learning Portal, and the tutor can prompt students if they get off-topic. In the eyes of the school founders, it is the perfect synthesis of the strengths of the two models.

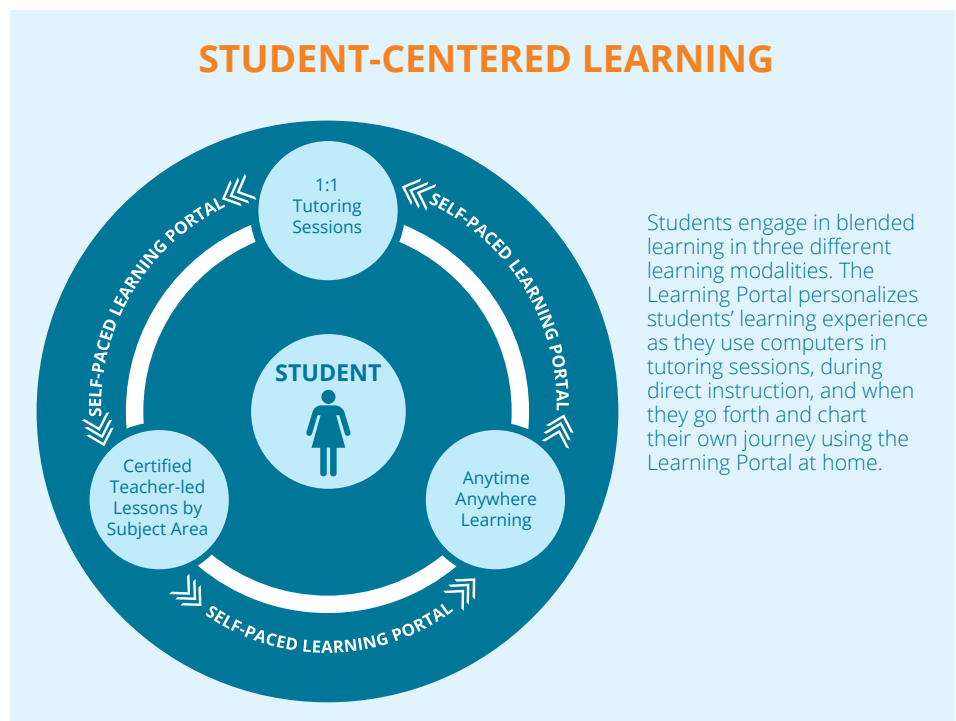
The founders believe that English language learners in particular will benefit from the personalization provided by the merging of blended learning and intensive tutoring. Because the local community has been calling for more educational options for English language learners, GO-NYC offers a lottery preference for English language learners.

The Organizational Model: The organizational model has been designed to support the student-centered learning model in a sustainable and affordable way. The cadre of full-time tutors—recent college graduates with strong academic backgrounds—is each given a \$7,000 stipend and housing in exchange

for a year of service. It's a popular package: more than 200 individuals applied for the 20 tutor positions available at GO-NYC. In addition, the licensing agreement with KUSA for use of its components, along with professional development and network membership, mirrors the rates that any public school might spend on texts and curriculum development. Through a partnership with New York University, GO-NYC plans to grow its own teacher talent from the tutoring corps—with professional development support through

NYU and KUSA.

The Operator: This is the second school of the Great Oaks Foundation. Its first school in Newark, NJ, utilizes the tutoring model but the founders recognized the limitations of printed worksheet packets that drive the tutoring experience there. Great Oaks envisions a network of schools across the nation, each one providing a personalized education using the model pioneered at GO-NYC, and a network of GO tutors-turned-teachers who bring the ideas of blended learning with them wherever they go.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

School URL: <http://www.greatoakscharter.org/schools/newyork> | Operator URL: <http://www.greatoakscharter.org>
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