



Investment Partner in Renaissance 2010

2009 New Ventures in Education Seminar:
Creating Accelerated Learning Opportunities

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Creating a New Market of Public Education

James Troupis
Principal
Gary Comer College Prep,
A Campus of Noble Street Charter School

Accelerated Learning

The theory behind accelerated learning is to provide a rigorous environment for all students

Theories/Principles of Accelerated Learning Opportunities at Gary Comer College Prep. A Campus of Noble Street Charter School

- ▶ It starts with improving rigor within the core structures
- ▶ The end in mind = college graduation (We choose what falls within this core)
- ▶ School culture must always be considered
- ▶ Data will lead the way

In a non-selective school there will be an inevitable range of students

Many different supports can be leveraged to effectively meet the needs of accelerated learners

Accelerated Learning Opportunities			
Support	Description	When to use it	Noble Street: Comer's Approach
Honors Track (Math/English/Foreign Language)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Classes with additional rigor and/or speed built into the course offerings of the school day ▶ At many schools students are on a track with a select group of peers and follow a different course load (of honors courses) together throughout the day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ When the knowledge of incoming students is stratified enough to justify it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Freshmen year is math only ▶ After freshmen year the number of honors tracks and courses increases ▶ Maximize students in these courses but don't predestine to quickly
Virtual Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Classes taken over the internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ When the school cannot provide certain courses because of funds, location, knowledge of staff, or other capacity reasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ N/A
Junior College Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Classes taken at a junior college – generally for college credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ When the school cannot provide (or provide at the necessary level) certain course offerings ▶ Or, if core to the school's getting students experience in a more independent/college courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ N/A
AP Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Advanced Placement courses are courses designed from the AP curriculum with a test which may offer college credit given at the end of the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ When students need additional rigor ▶ To reinforce school's commitment to college readiness and strengthen students connection to college opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ As many as possible as soon as possible with as many kids as possible
Enrichment/Extension Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Classes/Clubs/Partnerships outside the school day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ To develop a more well-rounded student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A Dean specifically assigned to finding as many of these opportunities as possible ▶ Students must have 200 hours of enrichment to graduate

Each support has specific advantages and challenges that must be addressed

Accelerated Learning Opportunities			
Support	Advantages	Challenges	Implementation Considerations
Honors Track (Math/English/Foreign Language)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ “The rich get richer” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ School culture considerations ▶ “Poor get poorer” (in the absence of strong remedial programming) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ School culture ▶ What grade to start ▶ How many students/classes per grade ▶ Which courses ▶ A whole track?
Virtual Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cost ▶ Student independence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Quality control 	
Junior College Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ College Credit ▶ Independent Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Transportation ▶ Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Transportation ▶ When/How to build it in and alignment with the school schedule
AP Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ College Credit ▶ Strong Correlation to College Success ▶ Increases School/Student Competitiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Professional Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Teacher Training ▶ Number of students ▶ Which Courses
Enrichment/Extension Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develops Well-Rounded Students ▶ Diversifies Student Resumes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Finding Consistent/Quality Partners ▶ Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What Are The Quality Criteria