EL Education

Kuumba Academy adopted the EL Education English Language Arts K-8 curriculum in 2013, and was one of the original curriculum pilot members for the K-2 English Language Arts Curriculum. As this curriculum is standards-aligned, the adoption allowed for school leaders to maximize opportunities for interdisciplinary connections and vertical alignment. The layout and format of the EL Education curriculum aligned well with different areas of growth for the KACS educators, including the providing of structures and protocols that elevate student voice and collaboration, and differentiating lessons in order to meet the needs of all learners.

Kuumba Academy Charter School, in partnership with EL Education, strives to promote instruction that is alive with discovery, inquiry, critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration. Teachers talk less. Students talk and think more. Lessons challenge, engage, and empower students with complex issues, text, and problems. They lift up big disciplinary ideas and give students practice with the tools and skills professionals use in the real world as they create high quality work. Teachers work to differentiate instruction and empower all students to be self-directed, independent learners.

EL Education is top rated by ED Reports and allows Kuumba to provide high quality, standards aligned instruction to every student.

There has been a great deal of emphasis placed on structures that maximize student participation and discourse, along with how well students are supported through synthesis and debrief of daily learning. In service of this in-depth planning, teachers have been introduced to various faculty learning targets to guide their learning:

KUUMBA ACADEMY WORK PLAN NORMS

CHARACTER

REFLECTION

WE WILL INCORPORATE THE **NGUZO SABA PRINCIPLES** IN OUR COMMUNICATION AND HAVE STUDENTS PRACTICE AND REFLECT ON THEM DAILY.

DISCUSSION PROTOCOLS

- WE WILL EMPOWER STUDENTS TO USE **NIA** TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR IDEAS TO DAILY INSTRUCTION AND CULMINATING EVENTS.
- WE WILL EMBODY **UJIMA** USING A VARIETY OF CONFERENCES, PEER CRITIQUE, AND SELF-REFLECTION TO EMPOWER STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR HIGHEST QUALITY OF WORK.

MKS

CHECKS FOR UNDERSTANDING

- WE WILL USE **KUUMBA** TO ASSESS STUDENT LEARNING BY PRIORITIZING ARTS INTEGRATION ACROSS ALL CONTENT AREAS.
- WE WILL USE **IMANI** TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH OUR DAILY MISSION AND VISION.
- WE WILL USE OUR **KUJICHAGULIA** AND KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENT UNDERSTANDING AND MISUNDERSTANDING TO DRIVE INSTRUCTION IN REAL TIME AND TEACH OUR STUDENTS TO BE DATA-LITERATE.
- WE WILL USE **UMOJA** TO UNPACK LEARNING TARGETS MULTIPLE TIMES THROUGHOUT THE LESSON.

CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS

HQW

- WE WILL USE **KUJICHAGULIA** TO CREATE EXEMPLARS, MODELS, AND RUBRICS TO PROMOTE STUDENT SUCCESS.
- WE WILL USE **KUUMBA** AND AUTHENTICITY IN STUDENT LEARNING THROUGH THE USE OF EXPERTS, FIELDWORK, EXPERIENCES, AND RESEARCH TO PROMOTE **UJAMAA** THROUGH REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS.
- WE WILL TRACK OUR PROGRESS TOWARD HIGH QUALITY WORK THROUGH THE USE OF PORTFOLIO, STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES, DOC PANELS, AND DATA WALLS TO ENCOURAGE THE **NIA** FOR SCHOLARS TO BE LEADERS OF THEIR OWN LEARNING.

KUUMBA
Academy Charter School