

## Namaste Charter School ISBE Children's Low-Cost Laptop Program Grant

Namaste Charter School is a charter school that serves students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Namaste has about 450 students with between 45 and 55 students in each grade level. We have over 85% of our students who are low income.

Namaste is a public charter school in Chicago that focuses on integrating health and wellness with rigorous academics. Namaste was founded in 2004 on the research-based principle that healthy, active children perform better in the classroom and that tenet continues to guide the school's practice and development.

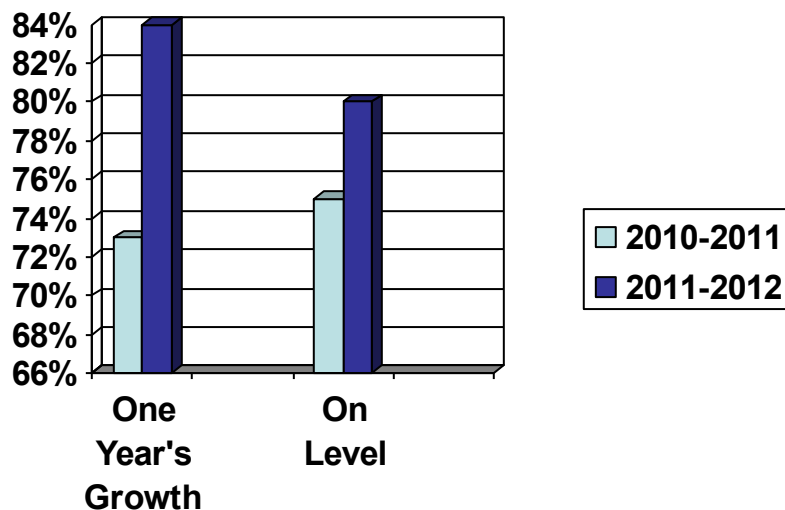
Namaste Charter School is designed to educate the *whole* child through top-notch academics, physical education, nutrition education, and social-emotional development.



The intention of the grant was to use iPads in the middle school classrooms at Namaste. Adding iPads into the curriculum in these classrooms improved student engagement, challenged higher-level thinking, increased the amount of technology in the school overall, and improved student learning.

### Quantitative Data

Namaste assesses their students three times a year using the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) in reading. Each grade level has specific reading goals. We measure the student's reading growth from year to year as well as how many students are actually on their targeted reading level.



## Qualitative Data

Here are some of the things students were able to accomplish on the iPads:

- Ø Learned how to take screen shots
- Ø Cropped photos using Photo Crop
- Ø Created an iBook using Book Creator
- Ø Recorded notes while researching for science & writing projects
- Ø Inserted images into presentations
- Ø Located places on Maps

Overall, all teachers reported higher student engagement including higher attendance rates. Students with IEP's were able to stay more organized and focused when using the iPad. The iPads brought an advanced sense of accomplishment when students completed their projects. Parents, teachers, and students were amazed at the tasks they could achieve.

For more information:

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