

# UCCS Carter G. Woodson Middle School

## Executive Summary

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### Introduction

UCCS Woodson is a middle school serving students from 6th-8th grades and is part of the University of Chicago Charter Schools Network. Located on the South Side of Chicago in the Kenwood neighborhood, students attend from all across the city. The school population is 377, 100% African American, and 69% receive free lunch. We currently have 100 6th students, 11% of which receive Special Education services. Approximately 2/3 of students come to Woodson from UCCS feeder schools North Kenwood-Oakland (NKO) and Donoghue, and 1/3 of students come to Woodson from a lottery system. Many of these students come from neighborhood schools on the South Side. We were able to receive 90 iPads which have been used in the 6th grade classes.

### Project

Students were given the job of becoming Junior Epidemiologists. Each class was assigned a specific infectious disease to research. In Science, students learned about the biology of the disease: what is the cause, how is it spread, how is it treated / cured and prevention. In Social Studies students were given a country to research that has reported high rates of the disease and research how culture, economy, geography, government, immigration, religion, and access to health care impact the spread of disease. In literacy, students read a historical fiction book, *Fever, 1793* to understand the point of view of someone in the midst of an epidemic. Lastly in math, students collected, analyze and graph data related to the findings for Social Studies.

Here are some of the tools students used on their iPads:

Google Earth- virtual field trips to their research countries

Pages- Take notes and record information

Keynote- Create presentation including charts and graphs

Edmodo- to complete related assignments and assessments

Numbers- used as enrichment for data analysis

Camera/ iPhoto- create pictures and videos with voice overs

Google Docs- to record and share information

iBook- read *Fever 1793*, and take notes

You Tube- watch related video in Science

Center for Disease Control- obtain reliable source information

World Health Organization- obtain reliable source information

Easy Bib- create bibliography

National Archives- Tools to analyze primary source documents

Speak- students used this text-to-speech feature on the iPad to decode difficult text and revise their work.

### Qualitative Results

*“Overall, uses for the iPad in the classroom were endless. The more I was able to discover about the iPad, the more creative uses I found for it.” 6th grade Math Teacher*

*“My child enjoyed working with the iPad. I believe that it has increased her knowledge in technology. I appreciate Apple for allowing my child to have this experience.” 6th grade Parent*

*“Students are using headphones and the speak feature as a way of proofreading and revising their slides. This is a strategy that is completely student driven. 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher*

*“This is an ongoing learning experience in many aspects. Visual learning using video clips and individual research are two remarkably good tools that assist me with this endeavor.” 6th Grade Science Teacher*

*“Using the iPads has been a lot of fun, and I am able to use it to research things that I would not have known about. I am excited about learning and glad that I can be creative.” 6th Grade Student*

*“Using iPads has been critical in meeting the needs of my Special Needs students. It gives my students freedom that they do not normally have.” 6th Grade Resource Teacher*

### **Quantitative Results**

71 % of 6th grade students improved or maintained behavior since the implementation of the iPads. Students at Woodson take the NWEA assessment 3 times per year: fall, winter and spring. We looked at the NWEA data from spring for all 6th grade students and compared the scores to last year 6th grade students. What we found was that in the 2010-2011 school year 68.8% of 6th grade students were proficient in Reading (scored a meets or exceeds) and during the 2011-2012 school year 84% were proficient showing a growth of 15.2%. In Math, 71.9% were proficient in 2010-2011, and 83.2% in 2011-2012 showing an increase of 11.3%. In the Fall of 2011 7% of students exceeded in math, 65% met, and 28% of students were below. In the Spring of 2012, 11% exceeded, 72% met and 17% were below. 6th grade parents were surveyed regarding their perceptions of their child’s performance since the use of iPads in the classroom. Over 94% of parents agree or strongly agree that interest in school, study habits and attention/focus have improved since using the iPads.

### **For more information:**

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