

PRODEO

A C A D E M Y

Prodeo Academy is a meaningful K-8 education solution that will effectively prepare students on the Northside through rigorous academic instruction and by teaching effective habits. Providing students with the skills necessary to close existing achievement gaps will help them to access greater opportunities, achieve future success, and contribute to the vitality of our community.

Building a foundation together with families, Prodeo Academy will honor and embrace a learning environment founded upon five core values: *Conscientiousness, Compassion, Knowledge, Integrity, and Respect*. A learning community that has a shared set of expectations around these values enhances the opportunity for each and every student to reach their full potential.

The Need

With nearly a 50 percentage point gap between white students and students of color, Minnesota has one of the largest achievement gaps in the nation. In Minneapolis, the scores in Reading are 86% and 39%, respectively, and 69% and 20%, respectively, in math. Not only is this disparity unconscionable, but it also has a direct and measurable impact on our regional economy. Nationally, research also demonstrates a link between household income and academic achievement. Students from middle- and high-income families come to school with twice the vocabulary as their lower-income peers. High school dropout rates are also six times higher for children who live in poverty. In 2010, a review of 21 elementary schools serving over 8,000 students in North Minneapolis illustrated that between 69% and 98% of students receive free or reduced lunch.

The Solution

The fact that this achievement gap is due to various factors is perhaps best articulated by the African American Leadership Forum's Education and Life Long Learning Work Group (AALF/ELL), which identify five different gaps that lead to significant academic underachievement: preparation, belief, time, teaching, and leadership. At Prodeo Academy, we are creating a culture and learning environment that addresses each of these gaps.

Prodeo Academy is a School ...

- Committed to Partnership
 - That Expects Results
- That Provides Rigorous, Individualized Instruction
- That Celebrates the Power of Excellent Teaching
 - Built on Best Practices

A SCHOOL COMMITTED TO PARTNERSHIP

The Preparation Gap – The achievement gap begins before children enter school.

Prodeo Academy will be partnering with high quality preschools to ensure continuity of instruction, partnering with parents on school readiness, and partnering with organizations on meeting the array of needs of our students and families.

A SCHOOL THAT EXPECTS RESULTS

The Belief Gap – Low expectations contribute to the achievement gap.

Like all high performing schools across the country, Prodeo Academy will be focused on results. Prodeo Academy will sustain a rigorous, college-preparatory education, with high expectations for all students and support to help all students meet those expectations. Prodeo Academy is committed to a culture of accountability and quantifiable results that measure individual academic achievement. We are a school committed to teaching, learning, and literacy. That is the only measure of our success.

A SCHOOL THAT PROVIDES RIGOROUS, INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

The Time Gap – Inadequate time in school contributes to the achievement gap.

In addition to having an extended school day and year, Prodeo Academy will partner with organizations to that offer continued after-school and summer programming. To make the most of the additional time allocated in the school day, Prodeo Academy will supplement its core teaching with individualized learning experiences for students, including small-group guided reading sessions, tutors, and physically active learning (PAL). This differentiation allows the school to more effectively serve students' different learning styles and assure that each student meets the high expectations set for them.

A SCHOOL THAT CELEBRATES THE POWER OF EXCELLENT TEACHING

The Teaching Gap – Poor quality teachers contribute most significantly to the achievement gap.

Prodeo Academy will invest in experienced, quality teachers who are fully committed to the shared values of the school and clearly understand what is necessary to help each student reach his/her academic potential. By recruiting teachers with significant experience in high performing schools, who hold themselves accountable for student achievement, Prodeo Academy will ensure that students will have continuity in high quality teachers year after year.

A SCHOOL BUILT ON BEST PRACTICES

The Leadership Gap – Weak school leadership contributes to the achievement gap.

The leaders of Prodeo Academy have traveled across the country to study best practices in high performing schools. In addition to completing internships and working in such schools, they have visited and built relationships in over 30 schools across the country where they are closing the achievement gap. The leaders have extensive experience in school leadership, curriculum development, teacher coaching, building a sustainable business model, fundraising, and most importantly, academic results.