



*A New Vision for Education*

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## **TWO NEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPEN DOORS USING ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL MODEL; ONE DISTRICT/DOE, ONE CHARTER**

***The New American Academy (TNAA) Alternative School Model – 60 Students Assigned to 4 Teachers – Will Be Used in Two New NYC Schools for the 2013-14 Year***

**September 12, 2013 (New York, NY)** – The New American Academy (TNAA) opened two new schools this week, with classes starting on Monday, September 9. The New American Academy Charter School is located in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, and PS 274, The New American Academy at Roberto Clemente State Park, is in the Bronx.

Unlike the majority of public school students starting school this week, TNAA students will be entering a very different kind of classroom. Instead of placing one group of students into one classroom with one teacher, the TNAA model uses a team of four teachers to work with 60 students in any combination of group size or classroom placement.

The teachers are at different levels in their careers; in the group of four, there is an Apprentice, Associate, Partner and Master Teacher. The Master teacher is responsible for the development of both the students and the teachers. The team will stay with their group of 60 students from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade (a system known as “looping”).

“The traditional school system too often emphasizes procedure over innovation; uniformity over individual expression; and control over empowerment,” said **Yehudi Meshchaninov, Director of Development at TNAA**. “The New American Academy utilizes looping to nurture more impactful relationships throughout the school community. This approach allows for unprecedented levels of targeted support, instruction, and development for both teachers and students.”

The first TNAA school opened in New York City in 2010 as a district public school, PS 770, The New American Academy at Lincoln Terrace Park, in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. This is the first time the model will be used in a NYC charter school.

“I have very high hopes for the year – there will be plenty of challenges, but I believe that the TNAA model can do great things for our students and teachers,” said **Lisa Parquette Silva, Principal at the TNAA**



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**Charter School.** Parquette brings more than 25 years of experience with the Department of Education to the job, as a teacher, department head, coach, and as a TNAA master teacher at PS 770. “Our teachers have spent six-weeks this summer in intensive training, including a week-long seminar at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education, where they focused on in-depth communication, reflection, and listening skills; all of which are critical for any team-based environment.”

“The TNAA model is a perfect example of innovation in the classroom,” **said James Merriman, CEO of the New York City Charter School Center.** “The fact that it is coming to two public schools, one run by the Department of Education, one an independent charter school, is a clear indication that school type is not what’s important when it comes to educating our students – it’s simply about what works.”

The New American Academy Charter School will begin with Kindergarten and 1st grades this year and will add a new grade each year until it serves K-5. PS 274 will begin with Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades, and will also add grades each year until it too is K-5.

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*The New American Academy* model is predicated upon the idea that student achievement is directly tied to the quality of teacher instruction. It is only by attracting, developing, and retaining skilled and talented teachers that significant educational progress can be made. The model was developed at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and was brought to the New York City public school system by Shimon Waronker during his time as Chancellor’s Intern under Joel Klein.