



Education *for* Change  
Public Schools

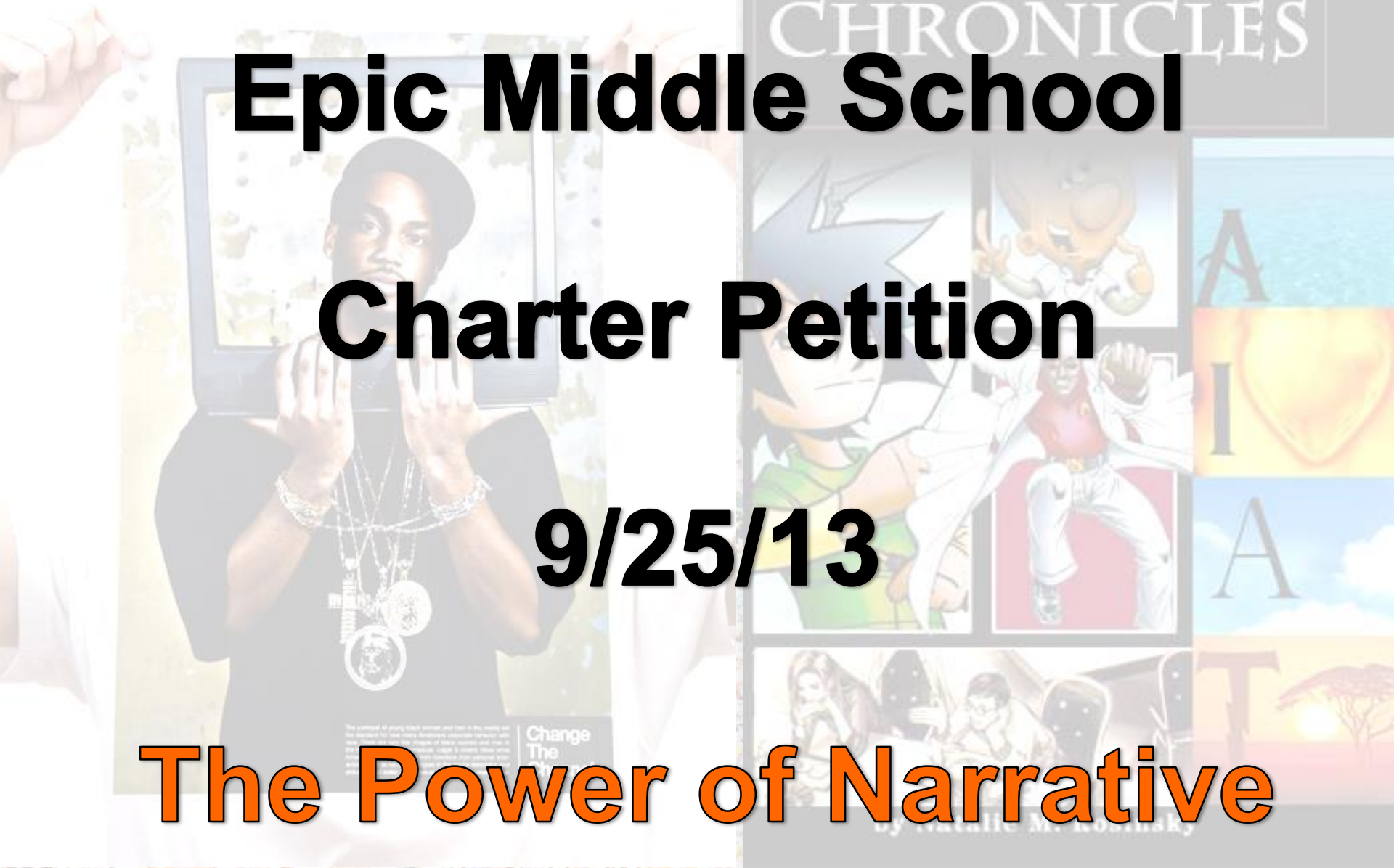
EPIC  
CHRONICLES

**Epic Middle School**

**Charter Petition**

**9/25/13**

**The Power of Narrative**



# Why EFC

## ➤ **Serving Oakland since 2005**

- ❑ Expertise managing and leading charters
- ❑ Strong team with extensive instructional & operational Experience

## ➤ **Operating 5 schools in Fruitvale with over 1,900 students**

- ❑ Responsive to & Representative of local community
- ❑ Deep existing Relationships with community partners & established Reputation in neighborhood

## ➤ **Demonstrating long-term success**

- ❑ 150 point API gain over past 5 years for 3 schools managed during this period

# Why Epic



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**There is a need for a quality neighborhood middle school option to serve the growing Fruitvale community**

## **Not Enough Seats:**

~700 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Fruitvale - yet capacity for only 400.  
(e.g. UPA only has ~100 seats for 6<sup>th</sup>)

## **By comparison:**

In 2013, EFC Achieve graduated 120 5<sup>th</sup> graders w/ CST scores of 58% in ELA, 75% in Math.

## **Not Enough Quality:**

UFSA is low-achieving – 18% ELA & 9% Math on 2013 CST.  
HS preparation is poor – Fremont HS 2012 grad rate only 54% .

**Education for Change is committed to opening and managing a quality neighborhood middle school option for Fruitvale youth**

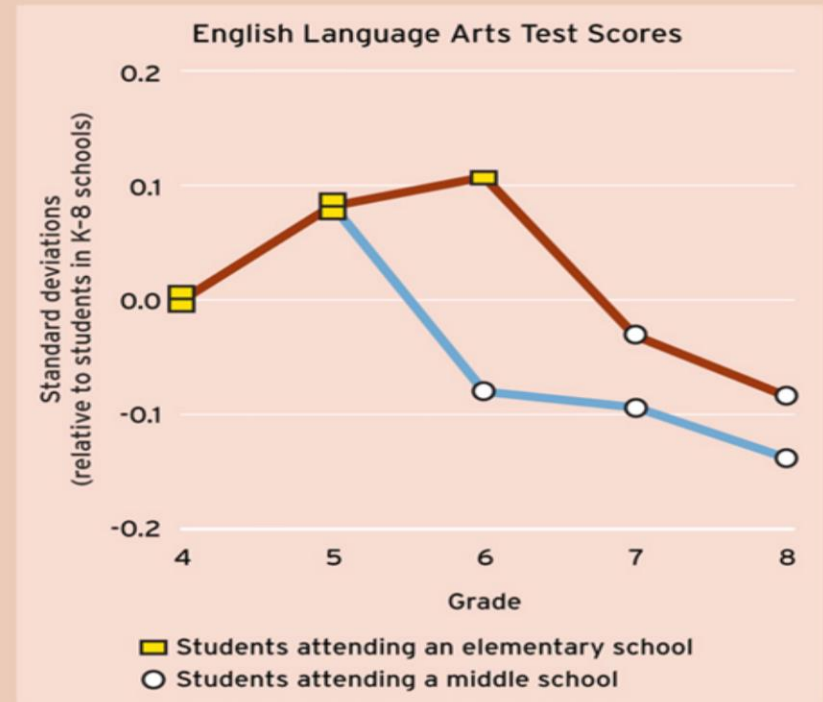
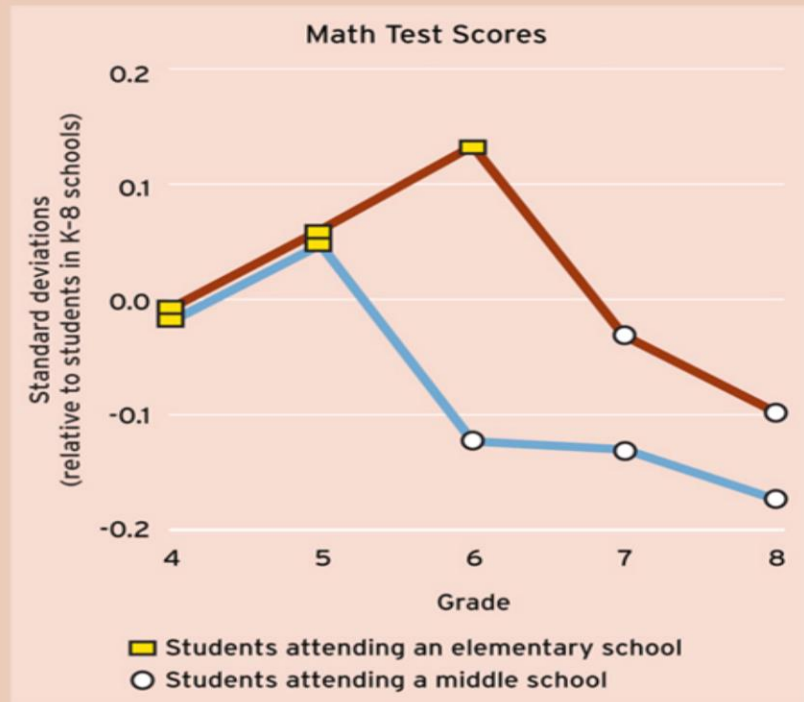
**EFC serves the community:** >95% low-income, >55% ELL, and predominantly first in family who would attend college.

# The Intent of Epic

## Middle School is a National Challenge...

### Losing Ground (Figure 1)

After they enter middle schools, students have lower test scores than students continuing in K-8 schools.



SOURCE: Authors' calculations

Source: Education Next (2010): <http://educationnext.org/stuck-in-the-middle/>

# The Intent of Epic

...and Locally, our Community Has Specific Concerns to Address



# The Intent of Epic



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***To address the very real challenges facing our youth & to ensure Epic provides the educational program our students need to thrive and succeed not just at Epic but as they move on, EFC has been very intentional about the design of Epic.***

# The Promise of Epic



## Provide a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education

- ❖ *Epic's overarching goal is to develop innovators and engineers*

**Engage & empower students by creating a larger school narrative that embodies the school's culture**

- ❖ *Epic will explicitly create a school culture designed around a heroic tale*



# Student Voices



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# The Epic Program

## HIGHLIGHTS



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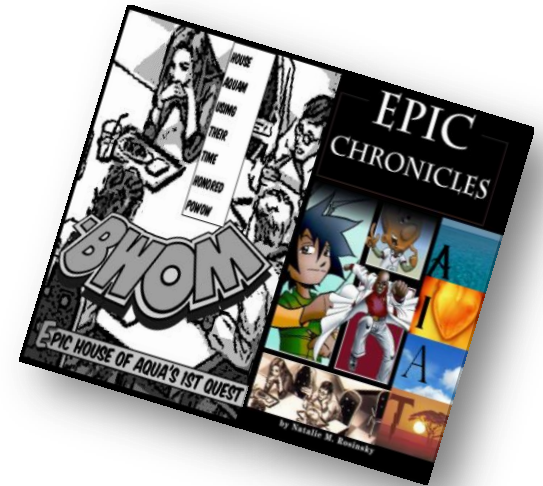


### **Design and Engineering Program**

- ❖ *Students will have authentic opportunities to apply their mathematical, science, technology and ELA learning to create solutions to real world problems.*

### **The Epic Chronicles**

- ❖ *Epic has developed a school culture model that builds off a narrative written specifically for Epic. Within small learning communities, students engage in Quests to apply learning & demonstrate leadership.*



### **Blended Learning & Mastery-Based Education**

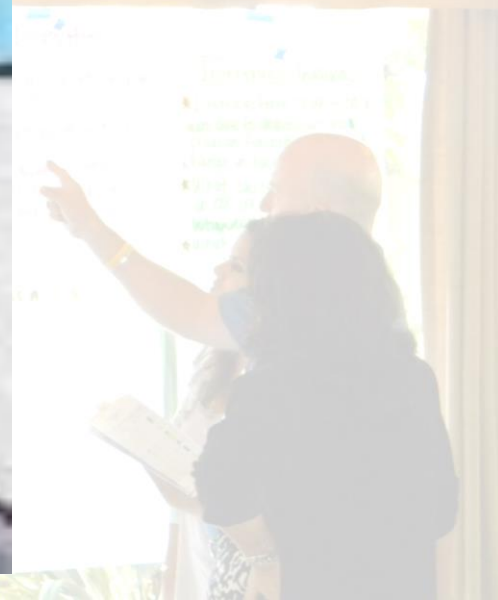
- ❖ *With a mix of meaningful adult guidance and online adaptive software, students will become critical independent thinkers with the capacity to self-direct their learning.*



# Parent Voices



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# The Epic Program

## OTHER ELEMENTS



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### **Prioritize Family & Community Partnerships**

- ❖ *Through home visits, parental education on curriculum, a community center, and a Family Leadership Council, parents will develop the capacity to be strong advocates for their children.*

### **Teacher Development & Collaboration Drive Instruction**

- ❖ *Through summer & winter planning institutes, daily collaboration time, on-site coaching & strategic external partnerships, our teachers will have the time they need to be learners and the capacity to implement our learning model.*



### **Strong Intervention & Assessment System**

- ❖ *All-In! is a robust intervention model developed in partnership with Seneca Center that leverages & aligns resources to ensure students receive the academic & behavioral instruction & support they need.*



### **Focus on Coaching & Mentoring Students**

- ❖ *Full-time student guides will be responsible for monitoring student growth and effort, communicating with families, and providing mentoring to students on a day-to-day basis.*



# An Epic Student

## A week in the life of a Year 2 student, Tomas: Taking Control of his Destiny



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
8:00 - 10:00	ELA / History	Self-Directed	ELA / History	Self-Directed	ELA / History
10:30 - 12:30	Self-Directed	Math/Science	Math/Science	Math/Science	Self-Directed
1:00 - 2:00	Eng/Design	Eng/Design	Eng/Design	Eng/Design	Eng/Design
2:00 - 3:00	Self-Directed	Self-Directed	Self-Directed	Self-Directed	Self-Directed

- ❖ 1 hour planning meeting with coach
- ❖ 2 hours in online math program
- ❖ 2 hours writing about science lab
- ❖ 3 hours reading Things Fall Apart
- ❖ 2 hours in Maker Space working on bridge design
- ❖ 1 hour conversation with Mandarin partner
- ❖ 1 hour to mentor a classmate
- ❖ Two 5k runs

### Tomas' Self-Directed Weekly Schedule



**Includes:**



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