

**Personalized Learning in Action**  
**Village Green High School, Statewide School**

Village Green Virtual Charter School in Providence challenges any observer's concept of a "traditional" learning environment. Teachers don't have permanent classrooms and there are vast banks of computers setup in personalized learning stations. Students only follow a set pace for 9th and 10th grade ELA and Math, the rest of the courses they can move through learning objectives at their own pace, as they master them. This gives the students flexibility to reinforce missing skills or go back and review an objective that they did not master the first time. Students know that they need to master all the content in the course to pass and must build the study skills to keep themselves on track to graduate. In 9th and 10th grade ELA and math courses, teachers control the pace of instruction as students develop a familiarity with independent online learning. Additionally, students take introductory courses like Digital Citizenship to both practice the use of the software and to develop initial skills they will need to exercise greater ownership over their learning. The long-term goal is to increase student independence over time. In the 11th and 12th grades, students have increased power to self-pace and monitor their own learning.

District Superintendent Dr. Robert Pilkington believes implementing a personalized learning management tool was an important initial design feature for the school. The tool allows teachers to assign students courses based on interest and have constant data to inform their instruction. It also frees up teachers to provide incredibly targeted support to students as they move through material. Teachers rotate through the student workspace to provide assistance when needed when students work independently online. Teachers also pull students out for workshops on skills on which they need more help or enrichment. There is no set schedule, instead time use is determined by student choice and student needs. Even the start and end time of school has less significance as students have access to classes on the internet after school hours. While the school curriculum is accessible to students at any time virtually, students at VGV also have active, in-person interactions with

teachers and other students, including extra-curricular activities and typical high school social events.

So far, this personalized approach has some anecdotal promise: Students in the inaugural Village Green graduating class gained admission to some of the most prestigious colleges in the country. Additionally, the release of the 2016 PARCC results show strong student achievement especially in ELA and writing.

**Focus elements of personalized learning:**

- Flexible learning environment
- Competency-based progression
- Technology-enabled