



By Josh Perrotton and Tara Shuman

## Have you ever marveled at the miracle that is a TREE?



If you haven't, think about it now.

Think about the sheer magic of a single tree. If you're not immediately impressed, try this.

Imagine you have all the tools and materials you may request. Your task? Build a tree, or something close to it.

Your structure needs to:

- Stand 50-70 feet tall (the average height of an oak tree, never mind redwoods at over 300 feet!)
- Withstand storms, including hurricane-force winds
- Be resilient to rain, snow, and direct sunlight
- Adapt in all seasons, including extreme heat and bitter cold
- Clean the air
- Make oxygen
- Stand for 400-500 years without human maintenance (the average lifespan of a longleaf pine tree)
- Provide shelter for 147 species of birds, 120 species of mammals, and 60 species of reptiles and amphibians (a regular oak tree can do this)
- Support more than 280 species of insects (a mature oak tree does this)

Ready, set, go!

## Seriously, though, if we were to set out to build a tree-like structure, how many of us would start digging?

To dig **DOWN** is not a natural thing to do, is it? If the goal is to build **UP**, then we start building **UP**, right?

But what if the key was digging **DOWN**? What if the miracle of growing tall started with going beneath the surface? Trees have figured this out, but have humans?

Of course we have, but sometimes we forget, or we neglect to stop and think, or we just keep moving so fast that we don't realize. This happens in school all the time.

Think about it: teachers have a long list of "standards" (i.e., content and skills) that they need to transfer to students every year. They are told by their state education departments, their administrators, and even their students' parents: build more, build higher, build faster. And our teachers are trying so hard to do just that.

Meanwhile, students are trying to keep up. There is less time for exploration, discovery, and finding joy in learning. And there certainly isn't time to fail.

Of course, the pandemic made everything worse. In 2022, 73% of 8th graders in the U.S. were below proficient in math and 69% were below proficient in reading.\* In 2025, these students will start to apply to college.

Yikes, right? Don't worry, though. Because we made Roots.



\* The Center for American Progress: https://www.americanprogress.org/article/scaling-up-high-dosage-tutoring-is-crucial-to-students-academic-success/

## What is Roots? Roots is a one-of-a-kind tutoring program created by certified teachers to meet the *real* needs of our students.

Research shows that "high-dose tutoring," (at least three times per week for at least 30 minutes, plus other important criteria) moves an average student from the 50th percentile to the 66th.\*

However, only 11% of schools offer high-dose tutoring.

"The survey estimated that only 37 percent of schools offer high-dosage tutoring and, nationwide, only 11 percent of public school students participate in high-dosage tutoring—despite recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores showing that a vast majority of students are below proficient in reading and math."\*

\* The Center for American Progress: https://www.americanprogress.org/article/scaling -up-high-dosage-tutoring-is-crucial-to-studentsacademic-success/

Students enrolled in our Roots program will build strong academic foundations by learning how to learn.

## Instead of this... We will do this... We figure out why you missed it and we work on how We teach you all the stuff that you missed we can help you not miss it next time. (And we will in class. support you as you catch up.) You struggle with a problem for We show you how to use different resources that will homework and wait for us to show you allow you to solve the problem by yourself. how to do it. We help you feel empowered to problem-solve and You get frustrated with failure and blame improve in times of struggle. yourself or your teachers. Teach you how to begin to help yourself. You wait for other people to help you.

The roots of a tree help keep the tree stable, nourished, and strong enough to withstand challenging forces. Wildewood educators do the same for our students by providing a positive, consistent space for students to ask questions, gain confidence, and learn new academic strategies.

Wildewood educators are honored to help learners grow their roots for lifelong learning.

Now let's grow!