



Parent-Student Handbook

2014-2015

Akron Digital Academy Student Handbook

School Mission

The mission of Akron Digital is to provide the highest quality blended learning experience for all students that promote high student achievement with a focus on college and career readiness for the 21st Century.

Learning in a Blended Model-**Blended learning** is a formal education program in which a student learns at least in part through online delivery of content and instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path or pace. While still attending a “brick-and-mortar” school structure, face-to-face classroom methods are combined with computer mediated activities. Proponents of blending learning cite the opportunity for data collection and customization of instruction and assessment as two major benefits of this approach.

Blended Learning is a fruitful effort in integrating live classroom activities including face-to-face instructions along with online learning and instructions so as to reap the maximum benefits by utilizing the best elements of all through effective planning by a Highly Qualified Educator.

Accessing your courses- To access your courses, you must first complete the registration along with complete an orientation session of two weeks. During this period, you will gain access to the Learning Management System via Blended Schools.net. Each student will be assigned a unique login and password to unlock their world of Blended Learning.

Assessments- All students enter through the doors of Akron Digital Academy as unique and individual learners. There are a series of assessments, (locally and state mandated) that are required to be completed upon entry and throughout the course of the school year that help guide the path or pace the learner will be placed on. Assessments are also a state requirement for graduation.

Student Services- Akron Digital Academy educates the “whole” student. Therefore, each student will be assigned a mentor teacher to help support them through their learning journey. Akron Digital’s comprehensive Student Services department addresses non-academic barriers to education.

Attendance Policy- Attendance plays a significant part in student success, and students are expected to attend based on the schedule they are provided. Attendance is monitored through classroom attendance and virtual class work completed. Weekly mentor contact is required. Students are required to sign-in upon arrival at school.

Awarding of Credit- In concurrence with the requirements of the Ohio Department of Education, a student will be awarded a credit for a course by achieving a D or better. The final semester grade issued by the teacher will be placed on the transcript and utilized for cumulative GPA.

Grading Scale- All final scores provided by instructors are converted to a letter grade as per the Akron Digital grading scale as listed below. Grades will be entered into Progress Book and posted on the learner’s official transcript; included will also be the cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA). The following decimals are used in determining the said GPA of a student:

A 4.0 (90-100)
B 3.0 (80-89)
C 2.0 (70-79)
D.1.0 (60-69)

Akron Digital Graduation Requirements

Students must earn 20 credits inclusive of:

- **Language Arts:** 4 credits
- **Mathematics:** 4 credits- Mathematics units must include 1 unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II.
- **Science:** 3 credits- Science units must include 1 unit of physical sciences, 1 unit of life sciences and 1 unit advanced study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics, or other physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science.
- **Social Studies:** 3 credits-Social studies units must include ½ unit of American history and ½ unit of American government.
- **Health and Physical Education:** .5 credit of each
- **Electives:** 5 credits

Elective units must include one or any combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education or English language arts, mathematics, science or social studies courses not otherwise required. All students must receive instruction in economics and financial literacy during grades 9-12 and must complete at least two semesters of fine arts taken any time in grades 7-12.

All students must take the Orientation to On-line learning course to help students not only with the necessary technical skills to be successful in an online class in Blackboard, but also with the planning and study skills needed to succeed as well.

Akron Digital Course Offerings

Grammar and Composition

Grammar and Composition contains an overview of grammar and an introduction to basic composition. Beginning with words and progressing to sentences, paragraphs, and complete composition, this course encourages the student to organize, to use good transition, to revise and to edit. It covers punctuation, grammar as it affects sentence fluidity, and correct sentence structure. The course stresses critical thinking and provides writing practice. The student has many opportunities to hone skills in various situations.

English 9

The goal is to have students read, critically analyze, and apply new knowledge to their own lives. Ninth grade English Part A is a course designed to prepare the college-bound student with an all around academic approach. In this course the instruction in grammar will be placed in usage units. Writing will focus on the five-paragraph essay and research. The writing process will be utilized for expressive and expository writing, as well as, the research using primary and secondary sources. In addition, communication, vocabulary, and spelling will be an integral part of this course. The process also includes an introduction to the various genres of literature including the study of short stories, *Romeo and Juliet*, and the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

English 10

In this course, students will read a variety of classic and contemporary selections. In addition, they will acquire the academic language necessary to discuss and analyze various genres of literature. Students will recall prior knowledge, develop vocabulary, and learn and utilize comprehension skills and strategies. Emphasis will be placed on the writing process, and students will receive specific instruction on how to write both an informative and persuasive essay. This course will also provide opportunities to develop speaking and listening as well as technology and presentation skills.

English 11

This course emphasizes the theme of the emerging American voice in literature prior to 1900. The course is divided into 4 units. Each unit contains vocabulary and reading strategies, as well as selections of literature and examination of various literary techniques. In this course you will experience novels, short stories, poetry, plays, and non-fiction selections all focusing on the American Dream and the American family. Along the way you will have the opportunity to develop your writing skills as well as brush up on your grammar skills

English 12

Welcome to the contemporary world literature course. In this course the student will examine several major works of modern fiction. In this course you will experience the novels, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction from countries around the world. You will discover that the writers in this course have ideas and lives as interesting as their work. You will discover many writers have unique writing styles, unique ideas, unique lives, and unique approaches to their art. You will also have the chance to do some unique work of your own. By reading contemporary work and some work of the 20th century students will also discover that no matter what a writer's origins, certain themes and events have been hard to run away from in the 20th and early 21st centuries. Along this journey you will use technology, writing, reflection, vocabulary, research, and other academic and personal skills to help you learn to enter the world of your community, your country, and your world.

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

This pre-algebra course provides basic principles; concepts and techniques that are necessary for students' success in higher level mathematics courses. Content material includes using the four operations with integers and rational numbers, algebra basics such as the order of operations, using variables and combining like terms. 1-step and 2-step equations, and inequalities, will be explored as well as multi-step equations.

Algebra I

This Algebra I course provides basic principles: concepts and techniques that are necessary for students' success in higher level mathematics courses. Content material includes solving equations and inequalities, functions, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities and probability and measures of central tendency. It is designated for students with a basic algebra background.

Algebra II

Algebra II A is a two-semester course that will take the student through a variety of units including solving and graphing equations and inequalities, systems of equations and matrices. Additionally, we will cover complex numbers, functions, rational and radical equations and expressions. Polynomials will be a major focus of the course before we proceed to study conics and sequences and series. Unit topics include Exponential Functions, Logarithms, Quadratic Equation and Conic Sections and Statistics and Probability

Math Essentials

In this course you will explore basic mathematical concepts. Those concepts will allow you to perform needed mathematical skills. The goal of this course is to help you to understand the process, need, and functions of many different areas of math. We sometimes lose sight of the fact that math is a part of our everyday lives. The course also focuses on an introduction to geometrical shapes and their properties. The course was designed with the goal that a student completing the course will have a thorough knowledge of the most basic and essential math skills as well as develop skills for critical thinking and problem solving. Mathematics is not just a school subject. We are here to learn how to use and to apply numbers. This is a basic math course to get you on the way to learning more specific topics in the field of mathematics. Have fun with it...Explore it.....Apply it!

Geometry

Geometry is important for two reasons. First, a thorough understanding of the principles of geometry is important to a wide range of scientific and technological fields of study such as engineering, physics, and cartography. Since ancient times, surveyors have used geometric principles to map the earth's surface. Global positioning systems (GPS) incorporate geometric principles for a similar purpose. You will study quadrilaterals, analyze circles, create transformations and tessellations, and measure two and three-dimensional figures through interactive activities, completing projects using cooperative learning. You will learn skills that can be transferred and applied to real-life situations.

Pre-Calculus

In this course, students will understand and apply concepts, graphs and applications of a variety of families of functions, including polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, logistic and trigonometric. An emphasis will be placed on use of appropriate functions to model real world situations and solve problems that arise from those situations. A focus is also on graphing functions by hand and understanding and identifying the parts of a graph. A scientific and/or graphics calculator is recommended for work on assignments, and on examinations.

Probability and Statistics

Students will be able to represent data using various graphing methods and calculations. Students will be able to model real life situations with a linear equation. Students will be able to calculate probabilities and possibilities. Students will be able to calculate and interpret probabilities for data sets that are normally distributed.

Trigonometry

This course will explore trigonometry and its related components. The first few units will focus on Right Triangle Trig, the definitions of the six Trig functions and how they relate to solving right triangles. The unit circle will be developed and explored in addition to applications of radians as they relate to arc length, linear and angular speed. Trig graphs will be investigated, including their transformations and how they can be used to solve equations. A thorough review of trig identities is included, in addition to the Law of Sines and Law of Cosines, to be used to solve oblique triangles. This course will prepare a student to use trigonometry in advanced topics.

Social Studies

US History

As this course begins, you will be introduced to our first President of the United States and engage in the difficulties that our first executive officer faced as he began to shape this new nation. As the course progresses you will share in the growing pains that accompanied this new nation's quest to maintain freedom for some and slavery for others. You finally arrive in a society on the brink of civil war as the nation divides over the issue of slavery. American History is an extraordinary story of leadership, conflict, failure, and success. American History also engages the learner in the promises of the New Frontier and fight for equality of the Civil Rights Movement. You will engage in the American Quest for freedom, equality, justice and world dominance. This course will take you through the election of Barack Obama

World History

Welcome to this course in World History with a focus on the development and impact of Western Civilization. Students continue on to study world history, beginning with the rise of Nationalism and Imperialism. They learn about World War I and the revolutions of the early 20th century. They then examine the rise of fascism and the events of World War II. Students also learn about communism and the Cold War. They conclude the course by examining current issues around the world. In order to demonstrate their understanding, students complete projects in which they play roles like historian, national leader, and environmentalist.

Civics and Government

The course will begin with foundations of our government in which both the principles and significant primary source documents will be studied. A novel unit on My Dearest Friend: The Letters of Abigail and John Adams will deepen student understanding of our second president and the contributions he made as one of our founders. The Constitution and linkage institutions (elections, campaigns, media, interest groups, public opinion, and political parties) will also be explored.

Micro Economics

The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with key microeconomic principles. Microeconomics is a branch of economics that studies how individuals, households, firms, and governments make decisions regarding the allocation of scarce resources. A strong emphasis on marginal analysis in both production and consumption decisions will be apparent throughout your coursework. The role competition plays in setting price and allocating resources will be examined. You will also become acquainted with the four major market structures and how and when government should intervene in non-competitive markets. Microeconomics offers you the opportunity to gain insight into the decisions of individuals in a free market economy and the tools to make more effective decisions in your own life.

Sociology

Sociology examines the basics of Sociology, which is the study of society including individuals, human groups, and organizations. The course is divided into four main areas: the sociological perspective, social structures, inequality in society, and social institutions and change. Students will examine controversies around social change, inequality, gender, and race. The course revolves around an overview of the field with projects that offer the student a chance to explore from a sociologist's perspective.

Psychology

Students learn about psychology, beginning with a brief history of psychologists and their experimental methods. They then examine psychological concepts, such as personality theories, human development, and consciousness, including sleep, dreams, and psychoactive substances. In order to demonstrate their understanding, students complete projects in which they play roles like peer reviewer for a psychology experiment, psychology professor, and anti-drug educator.

Science

Earth Science (Physical Science)

Our Earth is a constantly changing system. Its appearance can be altered in a matter of seconds or over the course of millions of years. Throughout this course, you will be investigating all parts of the Earth's system. You will be required to understand the structures and processes that change the Earth's surface including earthquakes, faults, rocks and minerals, and different kinds of erosion. You will collect and interpret meteorological data to determine the processes of weather. Finally, the students will gain an understanding of the essential ideas about the composition and structure of the universe and the Earth's place in it.

Biology

Biology is defined as the "study of life." In this course, you will learn a lot of basic information on atoms, matter, and cells to start you off on your journey through biology. These basics will give you a good foundation for studying cells in detail, including how they work and where they are found. From here, you will venture into how living things obtain energy and use energy. Finally, this course will study the how living things interact with the environment

Biology II

In this Biology II course you will study more specifically the different types of life on Earth. You will be introduced to the kingdoms of life and then we will look at them in more depth.

Environmental Science

This course presents a brief introduction to environmental science, ecosystems and their interactions, water (including surface water, ponds and lakes, ground water, water quality), soils, and resources both renewable and non-renewable resources. This course presents an overview of the basic systems that influence the ecosystems of the Earth. Students will investigate threatened and endangered species in our world. Environmental health and the importance of Agriculture are also discussed in terms of their impact on our ecosystems.

Anatomy and Physiology

The aim of this course is to expand upon what was learned in your Biology class, while emphasizing the application of this material to human structures and functions. This course begins the study of human beings at the microscopic level and works its way up to an in-depth study of select organ systems. Special emphasis will be placed upon applying and demonstrating the information learned in this course through, not only tests and quizzes, but through special projects and collaboration as well.

Chemistry

This course is designed to align with the standards for the Keystone exam in Chemistry. In this course, students will discover what chemistry is and how it is used and found all around us. The importance of the scientific method to solve real world problems will be investigated. Knowledge will be gained in the following areas: types of matter, atomic structure, chemical periodicity, chemical formula writing and naming, chemical equations. This course will also stress the important relationship between math and science while studying measurement, metric system and stoichiometry. Students will use higher order thinking throughout the entire course. An algebra background is recommended because of the amount and type of math involved.

Conceptual Physics

This course will focus on the basics on matter and energy in the world we live. In the four units of this course you will learn about force, work, energy, momentum and the laws of conservation of energy. In addition electricity, light and waves will be discussed. Students will have the opportunity to apply what they have learned in each unit through a final project and to participate in several mini-explorations.

Senior Studies

In this course, students examine the responsibilities of adult citizens in a pluralistic society. These responsibilities include respect for diversity, involvement with the community, and engagement with civic life. Students also explore creativity, entrepreneurship, and financial responsibility as keys to career and economic success. Throughout the course, students play the role of a community organizer in order to apply their understanding of success in employment, community, and society.

In this course students will be responsible for either career investigation through job shadowing of at least 20 hours, or a research paper about the career of choice. Students also may opt for the college preparedness project via college and university research, giving an overview of the colleges or universities they have visited.

CREDIT FLEX

Akron Digital Academy also offers Credit Flexibility. This is an alternative way to earn credit toward graduation. Approved credit will show on the student's transcript and counted toward graduation credit in the subject area or credit category. Credit flexibility shifts the focus from “seat time” to performance.

The State of Ohio’s plan for credit flexibility is designed to allow more options for students to gain credit, and allows flexibility of learning time and/or conditions. All students are eligible to earn credit through credit flex and the plan must be communicated annually.

Students may earn high school credit toward graduation through the following:

1. Completing the coursework through standard class/online work.
2. Testing-out
3. Pursuing an educational option and/or individually approved option (Individual Education Option).
4. Any combination of the above.

Academic Honesty Policy: Akron Digital is committed to helping learners grow intellectually, emotionally and socially. In keeping with this mission, academic honesty and integrity are expected of all. Each student is responsible for his/her own ethical behavior, and fostering ethical behaviors in others. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Unauthorized representation of another's work as one's own/plagiarism.
- Borrowing print from print or electronically published material, either directly quoted or paraphrased, without proper citation.
- Knowingly providing one's work to another student who then copies or presents the work as his/her own.
- Using materials or electronic devices not approved during tests, quizzes, and other assessments.

Student Commitment: It is expected that the student will:

- Be committed to the course(s), adhere to the course schedule as prescribed
- Work according to the pacing guides in order to complete the requirements of the course.
- Follow all other rules as specified by the district, mentor teacher or support staff