

Welcome!

Welcome to the Akron Digital Academy school family! Akron Digital Academy faculty and staff are committed to providing an authentic learning experience for every student. Joining our school family positions you to continue your academic progress toward middle or high school graduation and beyond. Upon graduation, all Akron Digital Academy alumni will be prepared for any college, career, and/or vocational experiences. It is our hope that you will embrace this opportunity by taking ownership for your academic progress with the support of our teachers and support staff.

We believe that every student is capable of maximizing their academic potential. **Students may adopt a schedule that works for them, but it is imperative that they login for a minimum of 5hrs per day to be counted present Monday through Friday. All ADA students can access their academic curriculum online twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.** We also offer on-campus enrichment opportunities, which are led by a staff of highly qualified instructors. Your journey begins today!

School Mission

"Akron Digital Academy meets all students at their point of academic, social, and emotional need. We intentionally build a diverse learner-centered environment, using every means necessary to improve academic outcomes and prepare students for success in their post-secondary choices. We approach this responsibility daily with passion and urgency."

Transcripts

We encourage student families to provide an official transcript during the admissions process. The transcript is essential for academic planning. Any outstanding fines owed to a previously attended school will hinder Akron Digital Academy's ability to retrieve a student's transcript. **If necessary, students and their parents are encouraged to contact the school most recently attended and request a current and updated transcript.** Once obtained, each transcript is thoroughly reviewed by our school guidance counselor and administration to ensure that each student has an academic plan that is unique and specific to his/her needs.

Program Overview

Akron Digital Academy provides all academic coursework online using the Odysseyware curriculum program. Odysseyware was selected because of our commitment to providing the most flexible, customizable and effective curriculum and instructional tools in the education industry. This curriculum seeks to stimulate learner cognition and provides an individualized learning plan for each student by including resources for academic success, direct instruction videos, close reading, writing, virtual labs, dynamic learning activities, games, and assessment.

Akron Digital Academy also utilizes the Achieve 3000 Literacy program that is designed to deliver differentiated online instruction for nonfiction reading and writing that is precisely tailored to each student's Lexile reading level. This online program's use of close reading and other literacy strategies can develop and improve the students reading strength and stamina.

Akron Digital Academy is designed to eliminate the barriers of online education by providing access to instructional support from our highly qualified enrichment coaches and our on-campus student services department, consisting of licensed social workers who provide counseling and guidance. Students are able to earn access to all on-campus activities and programs Monday through Friday 7:00am-4:00pm. These enrichment opportunities will enhance learner knowledge in core subject areas. These authentic learning experiences include but are not limited to project based learning, tutoring, activities, clubs, real world problem solving, multiculturalism, arts, service learning, and project based learning.

Students are REQUIRED to work on their online curriculum a minimum of 5 hours per day Monday through Friday. The flexibility of the online curriculum allows students to work around jobs, sports, activities, children, or other obstacles.

Sample Student Online Curriculum Schedule:

A: 8am–10am, 2pm-4pm, and 6pm-7pm

B: 1pm–3pm, 5pm-8pm

C: 10am-1pm, 4pm-6pm

Students may adopt an off-campus schedule that works for them; attend one of our on-campus activities, or a combination of the two for a minimum of 5 hours per weekday.

***Academic coaches support each student's academic progress by monitoring and tracking online work on a weekly basis. Working 5 hours per weekday will ensure that learners are on track to receive full academic credit and stay on schedule to graduate. It is vital to student achievement that parents form a partnership with Akron Digital Academy, with respect to monitoring and encouraging students meeting their weekly academic responsibilities via Odysseyware parent accounts. Failure to meet the 5 hours per day requirement may result in academic failure of a course.**

Enrichment Sessions:

The guidance counselor will work with students and enrichment coaches to help learner's select enrichment courses that will enhance student learning. Enrichment opportunities are limited to current course offerings, but students may also complete a Credit Flex application or enroll in College Credit Plus courses. Enrichment courses are offered to bridge gaps in student learning, improve test scores, and improve academic outcomes. It is our goal to meet each learner where they are and support them getting to where they need to be academically. We also offer on-campus counseling and

support services designed to assist students dealing with non-academic barriers. Morning and afternoon sessions are available for student participation.

Success Lab:

We understand that accessing curriculum online exclusively can create difficulty for some students. We have a lab where students can attend to get extra support with the online curriculum. This independent study computer lab is staffed with teachers, educational assistants, and an achievement advisor that can work with students to improve their autonomy with online learning.

***School administration can limit participation in on campus enrichment opportunities if a student does not abide by established rules and guidelines.**

Academic Integrity:

Akron Digital is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical learning environment.

In keeping with this goal, academic honesty and integrity are expected of all. Each student is responsible for his/her own ethical behavior, and fostering ethical behaviors in others in the learning community. All aspects of a student's academic work should be aligned with honesty and respect for intellectual property. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Unauthorized representation of another's work as one's own/plagiarism
- Borrowing 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
- Not completing online work with fidelity: cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, sharing answers, and fallacy

***Failure to comply with academic integrity guidelines can result in a failing grade and other disciplinary action.**

Student Commitment: It is expected that the student will:

- **Login Odysseyware minimum of 5 hours per day Monday – Friday**
- Abide by the school behavior, discipline and dress code (when attending on-campus enrichment opportunities or other school related activities)
- Follow his/her academic and career plan
- Take ownership for learning, grades, work habits, and conduct
- Demonstrate initiative and integrity in all school related work and activities
- Self disciplined in monitoring their online and offline work
- Attend and actively participate in social, emotional, and academic enrichment opportunities as needed

Parent Responsibility: It is expected that each parent(s) will:

- Agree to attend any parent conferences with enrichment coaches and school leaders should any academic or on-campus behavioral concerns arise
- Provide a signed note or third party documentation to excuse lawful student absences (see attendance policy)
- Volunteer, attend school events, and serve on school advisory committees
- Support their child's learning by recommending positive use of extracurricular time, including participating in volunteer based service learning opportunities.
- Contact our Student Services department for support as outlined in the community resource packet
- Verify and sign all logs issued by the school
- **Monitor and verify that your child completed 5 hours of work daily both on and offline per each student plan and academic requirements through the use of the monitoring tools provided in the Odysseyware parent account.**
- Encourage child to attend academic or social and emotional off-campus enrichment opportunities to improve academic outcomes
- Support literacy development by encouraging your child to read daily.

Akron Digital High School 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, but also with the planning and study skills needed to succeed as well.

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)

Credit Flexibility

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

College Credit Plus

This program can help your student earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses from community colleges or universities. The purpose of this program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wide variety of options to college-ready students. Taking a college course from a public college or university is free. That means no cost for tuition, books or fees. If a student chooses to attend a private college or university, families may incur costs.

Any Ohio student in grades 7-12 can apply for College Credit Plus admission to any Ohio public or participating private college. The college will admit students based on the student's college-readiness scores in one or more subject areas. Students may not participate in the College Credit Plus program beyond their anticipated high school graduation date.

We currently have an agreement with Stark State College for specific courses; however, students can choose to take College Credit Plus courses from any college that offers a course that would benefit their future. This could include online courses. For your convenience, see below for some of the eligibility requirements for local public colleges and universities.

Stark State:

Students GPA should be 3.0 or above.

Students must score a 70 or above on the COMPASS English test or an 18 on ACT English.

Students must score a 39 or above on the COMPASS Math test or a 19 on ACT Math.

<http://www.starkstate.edu/collegcreditplus>

The University of Akron:

Students GPA should be 3.0 or above.

Students need a 21 ACT composite/990 SAT Math and critical reading combined score.

Students must score a minimum of an 18 on ACT English or SAT Critical reading score of 430

<https://www.uakron.edu/ccp/admissions.dot>

Kent State University:

Students GPA should be 3.0 or above.

Students need a 23 ACT composite/1070 SAT Math and critical reading combined score.

Students must score a minimum of an 18 on ACT English and 19 ACT Reading

<http://www.kent.edu/ccp>

An information session will be held for qualified and interested families. Please pre-register with Ms. Waterhouse at [330-237-2211](tel:330-237-2211).

Credit Recovery

Credit recovery coursework is reserved for students in our dropout prevention program.

Work Permits

All requests for work permits should be made to the Director of Student Services, Kelly Alexander at 330-237-2242 or kalexander@akrondigital.k12.oh.us

Harassment

Harassment, bullying, verbal/physical aggression, in any form, of an employee or of a student will not be tolerated. The Akron Digital Academy Code of Student Conduct will be followed in singular and repeated incidents of harassment. We will ensure that students participating in enrichment opportunities are in a safe, nurturing environment.

Lockdown, Fire, and Tornado Drills

The purpose of all drills is to practice proper procedure should an actual event occur. The state requires that we conduct regular drills each year. Emergency evacuation signage is posted in each room near the door on the wall. Students are to adhere to posted directions and the instruction of the staff during drills and actual emergencies.

Withdrawal and Transcript Requests

All minor students must enroll in another school district before they are withdrawn from Akron Digital Academy. We want to ensure that all minor children are attending school by law.

All requests for transcripts and academic records should be made to the guidance secretary, Vicki Stevens, at 330-237-2203 or vstevens@akrondigital.k12.oh.us after the student has returned his/her Chromebook, other technology, or school property.

Bus Passes

Akron Digital Academy provides bus passes to students who attend enrichment and other activities. Bus passes are considered a privilege and are earned when students arrive on time, complete their daily work requirement, and exhibit positive on-campus behavior. We reserve the right to revoke bus passes for poor student behavior on the bus, poor school attendance, and other reasons determined by school administration.

***Parents should check with their child's home school district to apply for transportation reimbursement. These amounts or processes will vary by school district. Some districts may opt to provide transportation or monthly bus passes in lieu of monetary payments.**

Student ID's

Each student is provided with an Akron Digital Academy school ID during orientation or the first week of school. It is important for students to have their ID at all times. The ID's help us to identify our students and secure our school premises. Students are often stopped by truancy officers during the day and the ID will alert officers that the student is not scheduled for a traditional school day. If the ID is lost, the student must purchase a new one for a \$3.00 fee and failure to do so will result in an off-campus learning program.

Attendance

In order for a learner to be considered present in an online program, they must meet one of the following two criterions:

- 1. Participate in any enrichment, intervention, academic counseling, tutoring, service learning activity, or on-campus project based opportunity.**

Or

2. Complete a minimum of five hours of online or documented/approved offline work.

OHIO REVISED CODE 3314.03 6(B)

This Code requires automatically withdrawing a student from the school if the student, without a legitimate excuse, fails to participate in one hundred five consecutive hours of the learning opportunities offered to the student. Students will be withdrawn if they do not login to their coursework daily, or sign-in for enrichment learning opportunity for 105 consecutive hours.

Excused Absences

The law is also very clear concerning what constitutes a legal excuse for an absence from school. No parent or guardian has the right to excuse their child or anyone else's child from school for any other reason than those listed below. Reasons for excused absence from school (based on Ohio attendance laws):

1. Illness (doctor's excuse may be required in some special cases)
2. Illness in the immediate family (with limitations)
3. Death in the immediate family
4. Death outside of immediate family
5. Observation of religious holidays
6. Medical Appointment
7. Driver's License exam
8. Court Appearance
9. College Visitation

Students who fail to provide a note will be considered unexcused. This unexcused absence can be changed to excuse (see criteria for excused absences) with a note from parent/guardian or acceptable third party documentation to the secretary at the student's school site within 5 days from the date of absence. Failure to provide documentation can result in a truancy report being filed with juvenile court pursuant to:

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2152.02(D) "Chronic Truant" means any child of compulsory school age who is absent without legitimate excuse for absence from the public school the child is supposed to attend for seven or more consecutive school days, ten or more school days in one school month, or fifteen or more school days in a school year.