



Sisters School District
"Home of the Outlaws"

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**SISTERS ONLINE SCHOOL
INFORMATIONAL
BOOKLET**

2016-2017

Sisters Educational Options (SEO) is a premier public online learning experience that serves Sisters area students in grades K-12. We are an educational support system designed to give student(s)—in partnership with families, a great education.



We have partnered with , Oregon Virtual Education, and Edmentum's Plato to offer a diverse learning experience at every level. Our goal is to offer award winning curriculum and a learning experience that engages young minds with a rich combination of online interactive and offline hands-on learning.

We are a high-quality public school program that offers the innovative use of technology as well as individualized learning plans for each student that accommodate a wide variety of learning styles.

We promote a flexible learning environment that allows students to work 24/7 on their classes from any computer with internet access. Students can work ahead to challenge themselves and complete classes at a faster pace.

Research shows that in 2000, there were 45,000 students enrolled in 1 or more online classes grades K-12.* In 2009, that number jumped to over 3 million students, showing a 700% growth rate.* In 2010, the number of students taking 1 or more online classes grades K-12 was over 4 million. ** By 2019, it is estimated that over 50% of high school courses will be offered online.**

**The Rise of K12 Blended Learning, 2011*

***Education Week, 2011*

Characteristics of a Successful Online Student

While a traditional student in an on-ground class gets to know his or her fellow classmates and instructor by sharing personal interactions on a regular basis, the online student often "attends class" independently of the instructor or other students. Online classes are "asynchronous," meaning that students and the instructor do not have to be logged into the classroom at any given time. Online students most often will complete course activities--such as adding reactions to responses posted in a discussion thread at a day and time most convenient to their schedules. Students who enjoy face-to-face immediate interactions room may not find the online classroom a "good fit." Here are some of the important study habits and personality traits of successful online students.

Does this describe you?
I am a self-motivated and self-disciplined individual.
I am able to work independently with little direction.
I have good time-management skills that allow me to schedule specific times throughout a week to work on my online course.
I can adequately prepare and study for exams.
I can effectively communicate any questions or concerns to my instructor.
I am comfortable expressing myself in writing using grammatically correct, written statements and/or essays.
I am not a procrastinator. I like to get things done today and not tomorrow.
I will not miss the face-to-face interaction with my instructor and classmates.
I do not give up easily, even when confronted with obstacles.
I am comfortable spending five plus hours each week on a course to review course lectures/videos, complete course assignment, participate in chats and threaded discussions, etc.
I agree that online courses can be more challenging than face-to-face classes.
I consider myself an average to above-average reader.
I have basic computer skills and can use word processing software, download software, install software, use a web browser, etc.
I have access to a computer that is connected to the Internet and have a backup plan if something happens to my computer.
I am comfortable in a "virtual environment" - email, sending attachments, threaded discussions, chat rooms, etc.

INDEPENDENT LEARNERS

Online students must feel comfortable in a learning environment that places emphasis on individuals taking responsibility for their learning process. While the online classroom includes interactions between the student and instructor, they are not immediate as in a traditional on-ground classroom. Although online instructors answer questions and provide clarification of information to students as they would in

the traditional classroom, students must be comfortable waiting up to 24 hours for a response to their emails.

A typical week for an online student might include:

- Reading through the current week's assignments and lecture materials
- Thoughtfully reading the textbooks for the class as assigned and identifying main points and supporting details
- Taking detailed and thorough notes
- Responding by a deadline to discussion questions as posted by the instructor
- "Discussing" through a discussion board (by a deadline) the responses of fellow classmates
- Completing and sending (by a deadline) an assignment to be graded by the instructor
- Completing an assignment by deadline in a work group comprised of four or five classmates

GOAL-ORIENTED

Successful online students must be self-disciplined and goal-oriented as they work to complete their weekly assignments, post email messages, and work with their classmates in their online class. Online classes move quickly and instructors often will not allow students to "make up" missed online discussions or assignments.

PROFICIENT READERS & COMMUNICATORS

Online classes are reading intensive; students are expected to glean information from their texts and from online materials to apply to work assigned to them. Students must read for information, understanding and take notes often to be successful on tests and assignments.

BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS

The computer is an integral part of the online classroom. While mastering the lessons of your online course, you do not want to be saddled with less-than-adequate computer skills. These basic skills including proficiency in sending and receiving emails with attachments, cutting and pasting from Word, and communicating with fellow students in Discussion threads. As well as completing all the Orientations for each course, taking notes when necessary. Some teachers require students to convert word documents into different types of text formatted documents (rich text, PDF, etc.) as well as scan assignments.

SET A SCHEDULE & KEEP TO IT

Online instructors expect their students to be organized in setting a schedule that allows them to meet their deadlines. Most online classes require regular signing in and posting of messages in the classroom in order to stay current with class activities which include reading messages, attending online lectures, interacting in discussion threads and work groups, and posting assignments.

Online instructors expect successful students to log about 5-7 hours per class, each week. A minimum of 6% progress is expected in every class, every week. That is the **minimum**, in order to finish by the end of the semester; students would need to set a goal with this pace to finish on time. Students can set their dynamic scheduling tool to follow due dates and keep pace.

MEET DEADLINES

Online students who are successful in completing their courses know how to schedule their time to meet deadlines for classroom discussions, work group activities, and graded assignments. Successful online students understand that others in their classroom are counting on their participation in classroom and work group activities. Regular school students attend class for about 6 hours a day; online students should expect to put in the same amount of hours to be successful.

NOT EASILY FRUSTRATED

Students in an online class sometimes are faced with obstacles that are out of their control: computers can break, ISP servers can crash, electric power can go out, there can be glitches in the system, etc. A successful online student identifies solutions for unexpected "catastrophes" by thinking ahead about solutions to potential problems.

Possible solutions for each of the above scenarios:

- Use a friend or relative's computer
- Access a computer at the public library
- Email the teacher about the issues and move on and work on another class while you wait to hear back on a solution.

Remember to save all online classroom work to a flash drive so if your hard drive crashes, you do not "lose" your work.

COMFORTABLE IN CYBERSPACE

Most online classes do not provide visual or auditory images of the instructors or students, so "who you are" in class primarily is conveyed by the messages you post in the class discussion threads or work groups. You should be comfortable with this alternative method of creating a "picture" of who you are and what you think.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LEARNING PROCESS

Successful online students understand that their instructors are facilitators of their learning process and that the individual student must be a dedicated and goal-oriented self-starter. Online students are motivated and goal-oriented. They put their schoolwork at the top of their list of priorities.

Successful online students are not afraid to ask questions; however, they ask for clarification after they have attempted to understand the material on their own by re-reading the textbook, the instructions, or lecture. Communication with the teacher is key to being successful online and attending class connect sessions is an extra resource available to students who need additional directions and help.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

For attendance recording purposes students must make a minimum of 6% progress in each class each week. Not meeting the minimum requirement will result in absences and future enrollment in the program will be jeopardized for not meeting the minimum requirements.

Students **MUST** maintain frequent contact with their teachers or Mario Saraceno in order to be successful and receive the support they need on assignments and projects. The teachers are the facilitators of the learning and keeping open lines of communication with them is a pivotal part of online learning.

Students **MUST** be self-motivated and responsible for their learning. They need to log on 5 days a week and put in the same amount of hours just as they would if they were in a traditional school setting.

Students need a parent or guardian learning coach who is available to help them learning the process of navigating the online learning system, as well as, be there to answer questions, and offer support on assignments and projects when needed.

If students meet the above characteristics for enrollment, they should call to set up a consultation meeting. Registration paperwork can be mailed prior to the meeting and brought in at the time of the consultation.

Students will start with the Orientation tab listed under their classes. This explains how to navigate the system, what all the tabs are for, how to check their grades, and what all the different icons mean. After the General Orientation there is a specific orientation for each class they are registered for. This gives a content specific look at the tools and resources for the class as well as how to turn in assignments and the use of the system.

Students in high school will have 18 weeks to finish their courses, but are encouraged to finish early so they can be enrolled in more classes. Elementary and middle school students will be on a 12 week grading period. When students show they can be successful in completing their courses, they will be allowed to progressively take more classes at once. We do not recommend taking more than 4 classes at a time, due to the academic intensity and rigor of the online classes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please click the links below to find more information about the programs we use in our Sisters Online School. PLATO, Florida Virtual, K12, and Fuel Ed.

For the PLATO program please use the information below to work with the sample lessons. If a mastery test is locked you must complete the tutorial to unlock it.

PLATO <https://ple.platoweb.com> (High School/Middle School)

Account Login; ssd06

Username; test.student

Password; sisters1

Florida Virtual <http://orved.org> (High School)

K12 www.k12.com (Elementary)

Fuel Ed www.getfuel.com/peak (High School/Middle School)

NOTE* Online AP courses for high school classes will not be weighted at this time.

Contact the SEO Online Director to set up a consultation meeting and learn more about registering for the program at 541-549-4049.