

## **Antietam Virtual Academy Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Q: How do I register my child for the Virtual Academy?**

A: The first step to the registration process is to reach out to Mr. Williams to set up a meeting. Please bring your child along to the meeting with Mr. Williams so that he can meet them. Mr. Williams' office is at the Middle/Senior High School. Please buzz into the front door of the High School and make sure you have your photo ID with you. Upon entry to the building check-in at the main office. You will need a visitor's badge to have access to the school. Mr. Williams will greet you and your child at the main office and take you to his office. In most cases, Mr. Williams can have your child registered for courses and walking out of the building with your technology device in just 30-40 minutes of time.

### **Q: Will my son or daughter earn an Antietam School District diploma if they graduate from AVA?**

A: One of the benefits of our program compared to other cyber schools is the physical diploma your child will receive upon graduation from our school district. That document is the same document issued to a student in the traditional brick and mortar school and will carry more weight when applying for colleges.

### **Q: Will the items taught through Edgenuity be the same as the ones being taught in the school?**

A: Our online course catalogue mirrors that of our brick and mortar school. If anything, our online program has more elective options for kids at the high school level as our brick and mortar school only has so many teachers and courses that it can provide.

### **Q: Can I enter the Virtual Academy during the school year?**

A: Absolutely. We recommend you transition at the end of a marking period so your child can start fresh with a new unit. If that cannot be accommodated, we can transfer them in mid-quarter. Their grade in the regular brick and mortar will be averaged with their Virtual Academy grade to create an end of quarter grade if the child transfers in mid-quarter.

### **Q: Does my child have access to everything a traditional brick and mortar student would have?**

A: One of the great aspects of our program is its ability to provide everything to our online students that a traditional brick and mortar student would have. That means access to the library, school psychologist or guidance counselors. It also includes the ability to play any sport at the Middle/Senior High School or participate in any extracurricular clubs such as the musical. Students who are interested in band or chorus may come into the building to take those classes as well.

**Q: Does my child have to take a laptop provided by the school?**

A: No, all your child needs is an internet connection to access their courses. If they already have a computer at home and would like to use that we will not make them take a laptop. Otherwise, we will provide them with a new Lenovo Chromebook.

**Q: Does Edgenuity require the purchasing of books? Will books be shipped to my child?**

A: The great thing about Edgenuity is that all course materials in Grades 6-12 are embedded into the courses, meaning you do not have to get a textbook sent in the mail or print out assignments. In grades K-5, workbooks will be mailed to your house. If you do not have a scanner for your child in K-5 you may take a picture of the work and email it to the Edgenuity teacher.

**Q: Do Antietam teachers instruct my child?**

A: In grades 6-12, Edgenuity teachers are provided for each course. They grade all assignments and are the direct point of contact for any questions that are class related. Mr. Williams oversees your child's progress and intervenes on your behalf with the Edgenuity teacher if needed. In grades K-5, one Edgenuity teacher will be responsible for each of your child's courses. They will require a weekly meeting with both the parent and child to check-in virtually through Blackboard Connect. Antietam teachers are available in a situation where your child is looking for a tutor in a specific subject area. That can be arranged through Mr. Williams on a case by case basis.

**Q: How many credits does my child need to graduate from the Virtual Academy?**

A: Beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, each student is promoted to a new grade level based on the amount of credits they accrue. To move from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade for example, a student must earn 5 total credits. In order to graduate from the Antietam Virtual Academy a student will need to earn 23.5 credits by the end of their senior year. Mr. Williams keeps a working transcript and will keep your child on track to graduate.

**Q: How does online gym class work?**

A: Gym is a required credit in grades 9-12, all four years. Edgenuity offers gym at an Elementary, Middle School and High School level. In the past, our Elementary students chose to go to Mount Penn Elementary for their specials, taking only their major courses online. The Middle School and High School PE courses incorporate physical activity logs that a student must complete and submit weekly and each chapter of the course is designed to look at the benefits of that unit of exercise as well as the different body parts that are impacted. Online PE courses at the High School level do incorporate quizzes and tests on units.

**Q: Does my child need to use a personal email address to contact teachers?**

A: One of the best aspects of our partnership with Edgenuity is the constant communication across all levels. Each one of our students has a built-in email system, created through Edgenuity. That is the main way the Edgenuity teachers communicate with your child. The beautiful piece to this is that every email that gets sent to your child from an Edgenuity teacher is also copied to the Lead Learning Parent's email and Mr. Williams' email. That way there are three different levels of contact, so parents are constantly in the loop with their child's progress.

**Q: What is required of a parent of a child online in grades K-6?**

A: Online learning can be difficult at a younger age. Children, in some cases, are experiencing technology for the first time. It is strongly recommended that a parent work with their child on their online schooling throughout the day or evening in grades K-6. A parent will be required to join a weekly online meeting with their child and their teacher to discuss any issues and allow the Edgenuity teacher to perform benchmark assessments with your child. A parent must be an active participant in their child's education, especially in grades K-6.

In grades 7-12, a child can have more freedom to work on classes independently. We recommend that parents check their email frequently and meet with their children weekly to discuss their grades and progress.

**Q: How does my child stay on pace to finish a course on time?**

A: Each year Mr. Williams provides the school calendar of the Antietam School District to Edgenuity. The company then creates a 90-day plan based on a two-marking period schedule. Incorporated in that plan are vacation days and other days that Antietam is not in session. Your child will not have work assigned on those days, but it does not mean they cannot work ahead in their classes if they choose to do so. In each class, a pacing guide will be provided that shows both the parent and student what is required of the student on every day of the 90-day course. The next day's lesson will not be unlocked until the current day's lesson is completed. A recommendation is to follow the pacing guide or stay ahead by working ahead in the course.

**Q: How long are the Edgenuity courses?**

A: Each major course is set up by a 90-day semester that incorporates a Part A and Part B. For example, your child could be enrolled in Statistics Part A which will carry them to the mid-point of the year. Once Part A is completed, Mr. Williams will load Part B. Elective courses such as Art, Music and Gym are only one semester courses.

**Q: Can my child work ahead?**

A: We have found that as kids have become more comfortable with the setup of the Edgenuity platform, their work productivity increases. Some of our students are simply looking to graduate as quickly as possible. This program allows a student to work at an accelerated pace if they choose to do so. For example, if a child finishes Part A of a course before the two quarters are up, Part B can be loaded right away if they want to work ahead.

**Q: How long should my child be online each day?**

A: Your child should be spending at least an hour per major course per day online. Elective courses may not require a full hour to complete assignments. Online courses can be a bit more cumbersome than a traditional brick and mortar class.

**Q: How is attendance tracked?**

A: Mr. Williams, as well as the Lead Parent, can see exactly how much active time a child spends each day in their activity log. It is required that a student log on as many times a week as there are days of school. For example, a normal week of school includes five days, Monday through Friday. One of the great aspects of our program is its flexibility. We will allow Saturdays and Sundays to count as days worked on courses. If you as a parent would feel more comfortable working with your child 2 of the 5 days a week on Saturday and Sunday, both those days will count towards attendance for that week. Mr. Williams takes attendance every Monday after the previous week to allow for Saturdays and Sundays to be recorded. For example, if Antietam has a traditional five-day school week and your child logs on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, they have met the five-day log-in requirement.

Along with logging in, Mr. Williams will also check the duration of each log-in. Mr. Williams should be seeing at least 4-6 hours a day of activity from your student. Some students may vary based on the number of courses they have. Our goal is to keep your child on pace in their classes. Absences will be marked in their Antietam Skyward Account and given to the Attendance Secretary. Virtual Academy students follow the same attendance protocols and brick and mortar students.

**Q: What should I do if my child is sick, in the hospital or unable to do work?**

A: The best thing you can do as a parent is to communicate with Mr. Williams. By simply sending an email to check-in on a situation, confusion can be avoided. Remember, by allowing your child to work on weekends, they can still make up the work for that week if they are sick for a day or two during the week.

**Q: My child would like to come into the building for a class but has anxiety about being in crowded hallways. Can anything be done to help with that?**

A: We encourage Virtual Students to come into the building to take a course they struggle with and would benefit more with a face to face teacher. There are also some of our students that really enjoy certain electives in-person. We can create a flexible schedule and have them leave at staggered times before and after the class to avoid hallway traffic. This can be done in each of our buildings.

**Q: Can my child come into work with Mr. Williams?**

A: Yes, I have daily office hours from 8:00am-12:00pm. I then assume other duties in the school after 12:00pm. My recommendation would be to try the classes first at home and if your child is struggling, they can always come into my office for one on one help. I have a large office where social distancing can take place if needed. There are no other kids in my office.

**Q: Where is Mr. Williams' office located?**

A: Mr. Williams' office is next door to the right, directly after the main office in the Senior High School. Your child would not even have to enter a main thoroughfare of classrooms to get to Mr. Williams' office. A bathroom is also conveniently located at the end of the hall. If you've reached the library you've gone past my office.

**Q: Does my child still receive a report card?**

A: Yes, your child will receive a physical report card for each quarter or trimester. Mr. Williams takes the final grade for each quarter and imports that from the Virtual Course into your child's Skyward Account. Only final grades will be shown on the report card. For a detailed list of how your child earned that grade, please access their Virtual Account through Edgenuity which provides an assignment by assignment breakdown of each grade.

**Q: If my child transfers into the Virtual Academy during the middle of the quarter, are they required to complete the entire semester of the online course?**

A: No, Mr. Williams will find out from the Brick and Mortar teacher what unit you are currently in and try to synch that up with the online version. Work already completed will simply be removed from the online content.