

North Central Area Schools

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Online Program: Frequently Asked Questions

❖ What is an online program?

An online program is an educational system that allows students to complete their high school coursework and earn a diploma via the internet. Some key features include:

- *Flexibility of scheduling and work time*
- *Use of an accredited curriculum that includes videos, assignments, projects, assignments and more*
- *Academic support from our own teachers*
- *One-on-one communication from a mentor*
- *Access to local school events and extracurriculars*

❖ Who is eligible to participate in this online program?

Students in grades 6th-12th who sign up by August 27, 2024 will be eligible to enroll in the program. The program is also available to students who wish to transfer mid-year. The deadline for second semester enrollment is January 8, 2025.

❖ What platform does North Central Area Schools use for online classes?

- *NCA currently uses the Edgenuity program database for course structures, but classes are taught/monitored by our own NCA teachers.*

❖ What does the Edgenuity online program look like?

- *A typical class will be broken down into units. Lessons consist of interactive content delivery, quizzes, projects, essays, and other activities. Each unit has a test, and at the end of each course there is a cumulative exam which will be proctored by the NCA mentor. You can explore more at www.edgenuity.com.*
- *The courses will be taught by NCA teachers. Amanda Norkoli will be the program mentor. Both teachers and the mentor will be available via electronic means. Amanda Norkoli will also be available in-person during designated online hours.*

- ❖ **What type of classes are available through Edgenuity?**
Edgenuity offers all core classes with an additional list of elective courses. Students will be required to meet Michigan Merit Requirements as well as district requirements, which is currently set at 21 credits for graduation.

- ❖ **What if my student qualifies for special education services?**
The program will be available to all students; however for those students in which it applies, the IEP team must decide it's in the best interest of the student before enrolling. This will be determined at an IEP meeting and documented in an IEP plan.

- ❖ **Can my student still participate in sports if enrolled in the online program?**
Yes. Students are invited to participate in any of our offered sports.

- ❖ **Can my student still participate in CTE or dual-enrollment classes?**
Yes, students can take either in-person CTE or dual enrollment in addition to online classes.

- ❖ **How are classes scheduled and completed?**
Classes will be scheduled by Amanda Norkoli to ensure graduation requirements are being met. Students must finish six classes per semester. Students will complete three classes during the first half of the semester and three classes during the second half of each semester. Students participating in CTE will need to take a combination of online and CTE classes each semester to equal a full-time schedule. Students participating in one dual-enrollment class will be required to take five online classes each semester and students participating in two dual-enrollment classes will be required to take four online classes each semester.

- ❖ **Will students be able to participate in both online courses and some in-person courses at the same time?**
Yes. This option is available to those students who wish to take a CTE class.

- ❖ **Will students have to be logged in at specific times?**
No, the online program is designed to be flexible to meet the needs of each individual student. However, it will be required that students communicate with their mentors during school hours when needed.

- ❖ **How many hours will my student need to spend on school work?**
Students should aim to work a minimum of 30 hours a week in their classes.

❖ **What is the role of the mentor?**

The online program mentor will be working together with teachers to monitor student progress in their classes. She will also be providing technical support, in addition to ensuring students meet attendance requirements.

❖ **What are the attendance requirements?**

Attendance is collected when “two-way communication” is met. Two-way communication will be initiated by one of the mentors, and will pertain to the virtual courses the student is scheduled in and the course content or progress. The student must respond. Communication may be done through email, Google Meet, or face-to-face conversation. It is required to have this communication at least two times per week. An absence will be documented when two way communication is attempted but not obtained.

❖ **Is there a truancy policy?**

Yes. If a student misses one week of two way communication (two consecutive absences), both the parent and student will be notified by email of a truancy issue. In the case of four absences, consecutive or not, guardian and student will be getting a warning letter that they are one absence away from being reported to truancy. Five absences will then result in being reported to truancy.

❖ **Will my student be required to come to the school building for any reason?**

Yes. Students will need to come into the school for state-mandated testing. It is expected that students check-in at the front office when they are in the school building.

❖ **If my student decides online learning is not working out for them, do they have the option to go back to in-person learning?**

Students will have the first two weeks to make the change from online back to in-person learning, or they may transition at the semester as well. Mentors will also be assessing student progress and performance after the first and second weeks of school, and if a student is not meeting the requirements listed in the student contract, they will be exited from the online program and placed back in in-person learning.

❖ **Will a student be allowed to enroll in the online program after starting school through in-person learning?**

After the first week of the school year, any enrollment into the online program will only be allowed at the semester. However, if there is a documented medical need that can be addressed through a 504 plan, the administration and an intervention team will work together with the family to determine if there is a need for enrollment in the Edgenuity program. It needs to be understood the student would likely not complete the required 6 courses if starting online classes late and would likely fall behind in credits.

❖ **Will technology be available for my student?**

Yes, a Chromebook will be provided to each student. The technology policy will still apply to the use of these school devices.

❖ **The contract refers to “academic integrity,” what exactly does that look like?**

Academic integrity refers to the avoidance of plagiarism or cheating of any kind. In an online setting, this includes using AI for written responses, using another person’s words as your own, taking a quiz or test with another person, etc.

❖ **What is the plagiarism/cheating policy for the online program?**

If academic integrity is questioned, the student will be required to have a meeting with the mentor/administration and appropriate consequences will be determined. Plagiarism or cheating will be checked by the teacher, and will result in a 0%. Edgenuity teachers should communicate with the mentor in the case of cheating/plagiarism and parents will be contacted.

❖ **What is the grading system for the online program like?**

The teacher assigned to each course will be responsible for grading assignments, essays, projects, lab reports, etc. The quizzes, tests, and exams are automatically graded. Students must receive a 60% in the class to be considered passing. The same grading scale that is used for in-person learning will also be used for online grading.

❖ **If my student breaks the student contract, what will be the consequence?**

Each case will be addressed on an individual basis. Students who are repeatedly breaking the contract will be exited from the online program at the end of the semester.

❖ **Will my student receive the same diploma as those students attending the school building for in-person classes?**

Yes. Online students will receive the same diploma and class credits. Online students will also be included in the class ranking system.

❖ **How can I enroll my student in the program?**

You may sign your student up by contacting the High School office or sending an email to Amanda Norkoli at anorkoli@ncajets.org. The deadline to enroll is Wednesday, August 28th, 2024. Upon signup, you will be contacted by the school to set up an orientation for you and your student.

❖ **Who can I contact with more questions?**

If you have any further questions, you can email Amanda Norkoli, Director of Online Learning at anorkoli@ncajets.org.