

The new Virtual Learning curriculum has been very successful for the nine OCS students and me at Cuthbertson High School. The new curriculum raises the bar for the students and makes them more accountable for their success in the classes. The curriculum content challenged the students to perform at their highest ability level. The variety of the activities helped to maintain the students' focus on the tasks given. Students were always eager to get their computers and find out what tasks we were working on that day. Using the computers for instruction was a new concept for the students and their use was a stimulus to do their best. They now had two teachers who were teaching, assessing them and giving them feedback.

One of my students (autistic) who had not experienced a high level of success in the past has really raised the bar for himself. Up until this year he had a one-on-one worker with him for the entire school day. Although he continued to exhibit some of the typical autistic behaviors, he was now responsible for his behavior and his academic performance. As a result of the instructional activities in the online class he scored a Level III on the English I exam. He was always the first student in class and the first student to log on to the web site. He maintained focus the entire period and even worked on unfinished activities during his Instructional Support class.

I remained very active with the lessons and with the students. The individual lessons were projected on the wall, and I read everything in the lesson. During the lesson I would ask additional questions in order to assess their understanding of the various activities.

The teachers with whom I worked (Tammy Bates, Heather Ott, and Gena Barnhardt) were always working hard to have activities that were challenging and informative. The students, as well as I, always looked forward to the positive feedback that was sent to them in messages. They received comments such as "great work, congratulations on a job well done, and keep working hard. As EOC testing approached the teachers were very helpful in providing review materials in all three classes.

I am a strong advocate for the Virtual Learning curriculum and the many opportunities that it offers our students. The challenges that were given to the students through the many activities made them realize that they can be successful with a more challenging curriculum. I am looking forward to the addition of more courses in the future. Thank you.

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