

# Online Learning;

## A Student's Dream Come True or Worst Nightmare, You Decide!

- Want to earn your credit, but don't want to go to school every day?
- Want to work from 1:00 AM to 3:00 AM on a US History class, or anytime you please?
- Need to make up credit in a class or two this summer but have other plans for your summer – maybe a job, vacation, sleep?

Edmonds School District students now have the option to take summer school classes on line through the Edmonds eLearning Summer School Program. Students who need to make up credit have the opportunity to complete, online, Math, English and Social Studies classes (grades 9-12).

Students may enroll in up to two classes at a time and complete the classes at their own pace. These classes are mastery based; you only need to complete those portions of the class you have not mastered! (Students complete a diagnostic test for each unit to determine which activities they have mastered and which they need to complete.)

Cost per class is \$235.00 (limited financial aid may be available).

Classes start July 6<sup>th</sup> 2009 and must be completed by August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Student will need to take a proctored final in their online class to earn credit.

The application process for the Edmonds eLearning Program is a three step process.

### Step One:

Make sure this is the right program for you. ELearning is a wonderful opportunity for some students and a nightmare for others! What makes the difference? Truthfully, eLearning is NOT right for everyone. That's why we want you to look at the "Expectations for Online Students" and take the quiz "Is Online Learning Right For Me?". If this program is a good match for your learning style and needs then please apply. If not, please check with your counselor and find another alternative.

### Step Two:

Complete the Online Summer School Application. Once we receive your application we will contact you with additional information regarding the required student orientation.

### Step Three:

Attend the face-to-face orientation for getting started in the program. This meeting takes 30 - 45 minutes and is the final step in the process of becoming a student in the Edmonds eLearning Summer School program.

More details and the application for the online summer school can be found at <http://www.edmonds.wednet.edu/online>.

## Is online learning right for me?

Online learning isn't for everyone. And that's fine, because the face-to-face classroom isn't for everyone, textbooks aren't for everyone and computer-based training modules aren't for everyone.

But if you are thinking of taking an online course, you need to consider whether or not you'll be successful as an online learner. Some of the questions you need to ask yourself are obvious, but others not so.

### **Do I have basic computer skills?**

**Do you know how to navigate to a web site, to copy and paste from a web page into an email, save a file etc?**

### **Do I have the time to do this? Can I budget my time to do this?**

If you wait until you have time to take an online class you never will get started. You must make time to take the class. We know students who commit the same time each and every day to an online class are most likely to be successful.

### **Am I flexible?**

Web sites crash, files get lost, online things happen and you must be flexible and be "able to go with the flow".

### **Do I ask questions?**

In a face-to-face class I can see when my students don't understand something – the blank stare is a good indicator. Online the only way we know if you need help is if you ask for it. Are you willing and able to ask for help before you get frustrated?

### **Can I communicate in and learn from the written word?**

If you enjoy listening to your teacher lecture or watching a movie to learn then online learning is NOT for you. If you learn well be reading and writing then online learning IS for you.

### **Am I self motivated?**

No one is going to be looking over your shoulder to make sure you are working and not watching You Tube videos or updating your Facebook page. You need to step up and accept responsibility for working in your online class. After all, it is your credit that you are earning

### **Do I use email to communicate?**

As old school as it may be we still use email to communicate with students. You will be sending all your work in via email, as well as, asking questions and we will be responding via email. If you don't have and use an email account you cannot "attend" an online school. Need a free account? We recommend Google Mail.

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