



Middle School On-line Course Pilot Commonly Asked Questions

Question	Answer				
1. Why take an online course for high school credit in middle school?	<p>There are many reasons that families might choose to have an 8th grade student take a course for high school credit while still in middle school. One purpose would be for the student to enter high school having already earned some of the required course credits for graduation. Students that enter high school in 2009 or thereafter will need 25 credits to graduate. Each course in this pilot will satisfy one of the graduation requirements that students must earn one credit in one of the following areas: dual credit, Advanced Placement, honors or distance education.</p> <p>Other students may take a high school course early to allow them to have more opportunities for elective courses of their choosing once they enroll in high school. Other families may be looking for a greater challenge for their students. Pursuing this educational opportunity is a personal choice and we hope one that will benefit students as they continue on their educational path in APS.</p>				
2. Will the course utilize middle school curriculum or high school curriculum?	Students who successfully pass this course will receive high school credit. Consequently, high school-level curriculum will be used.				
3. Who will be teaching the courses?	The three middle schools in this pilot will utilize existing middle school teachers that are Highly Qualified (licensed) to teach the High School course content.				
4. What is the difference between the middle school health course and the high school health course?	<p>This course is required for graduation. The middle and high school health content standards cover the content areas of sexuality; nutrition; alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; physical activity; personal safety; mental, social and emotional well-being. The major difference in the courses is the depth to which the topics are covered, discussed and the expectation that students demonstrate their understanding of issues, consequences of their actions and strategies to use in problem solving.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Middle School Health Course</th> <th style="text-align: center;">High School Health Course</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Specifically addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -positive health behaviors and consequences; -body systems & adolescent health; -how to access valid health information, services & products; -practicing health enhancing behaviors; -analyzing the influence of culture on adolescent health; -use of interpersonal communication to enhance health; -use of goal-setting and decision making skills; -being an advocate for health. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Specifically addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -comprehension of concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention; -accessing valid health information, products and services; -ability to practice health enhancing behaviors and reduce health risks; -- -analyzing the influence of culture on health; -use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health; -use goal setting and decision making skills to enhance health; -being an advocate for health. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Middle School Health Course	High School Health Course	<p>Specifically addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -positive health behaviors and consequences; -body systems & adolescent health; -how to access valid health information, services & products; -practicing health enhancing behaviors; -analyzing the influence of culture on adolescent health; -use of interpersonal communication to enhance health; -use of goal-setting and decision making skills; -being an advocate for health. 	<p>Specifically addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -comprehension of concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention; -accessing valid health information, products and services; -ability to practice health enhancing behaviors and reduce health risks; -- -analyzing the influence of culture on health; -use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health; -use goal setting and decision making skills to enhance health; -being an advocate for health.
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5. Does my 8 th grade student have to go to the high school campus to participate in the class?	No, 8th grade students will not have to attend classes at a high school campus to participate in this pilot. Time spent with their online teacher will be at the middle school campus hosting the course.				

<p>6. Will students ever meet with the teacher face to face?</p>	<p>The three middle schools in this pilot will use what is commonly referred to as a “blended” teaching model. This means that the students will have required face-to face time with the teacher and the students will also have “on-line” time with the teacher where the teacher and students are not in the same room. The model requires independent assignments that will be submitted electronically with the teacher regularly monitoring the amount of time that students spend on line. Also, class “discussions” will happen in the online environment through various electronic tools. The North American Council of Online Learning (iNACOL) provides this definition of a blended teaching model:</p> <p>“Blended learning means many things to many people, even within our relatively small online learning community. It is referred to as both blended and hybrid learning, with little or no difference in the meaning of the terms among most educators. In general terms, blended learning combines online delivery of educational content with the best features of classroom interaction and live instruction to personalize learning, allow thoughtful reflection, and differentiate instruction from student to student across a diverse group of learners. “</p>
<p>7. What if we do not have Internet access or a computer at home?</p>	<p>Each participating school will provide access to computers with Internet access at the school site. It is important to note that students in these classes will need to work on computers outside of the “traditional” class schedule. Please check with your school to see when access to computers will be available. Each school will devise a schedule that may include time during lunch, before school or after school. Students take the online course in addition to their existing middle school class schedule. The online course does not replace a current 8th grade class.</p>
<p>8. What will happen if my student does not complete the class work by the end of the semester?</p>	<p>Just as with a traditional course, the online courses will have a start and end dates and students will be required to complete them by the end of the semester to earn a grade. This is a moderated course with a pacing guide and syllabus. Assignments with due dates and discussion participation will be required similar to the face to face class.</p>
<p>9. If my student takes an online health course or NM history course does he/she still have to take the middle school health course or social studies class?</p>	<p>The online courses are for high school credit and use a different syllabus than the middle school courses. Consequently, the online courses do not replace the middle school courses. The online courses are taken in addition to the classes that students must take for successful completion of middle school.</p>
<p>10. Q: What should I do if my student is enrolled in the course and I become concerned about his/her grade as they proceed?</p>	<p>Please contact the school counselor to schedule an appointment with the teacher as soon as you are concerned.</p>
<p>11. Will grades for high school Health or New Mexico History show up on my student’s Middle School Report Card?</p>	<p>Yes, the first grades will appear on the 3rd quarter report card in March. However these courses will not be calculated in the middle school GPA (grade point average).</p>
<p>12. Will grades for these courses affect my student’s high school Grade Point Average and Class Rank?</p>	<p>Students may drop the high school Health or New Mexico History course before February 8th with no grading consequences. Any student who drops the course on or after February 8th will have a “WF” withdraw/failing. This is the same as receiving an “F”. Students have the option to request that credit earned for high school courses taken at the middle school not be posted to the high school transcript. The request must be made before the last day of school in the 8th grade year. Students and Parents should complete the form and return it to the middle school Principal. Students and Parents should consider the following impact when making this decision.</p> <p>New Mexico History and Health – You should understand that if you decline to have this credit posted to your high school transcript, you will be required to repeat this course in high school in order to meet your graduation requirements.</p>
<p>13. Can my student take high school algebra online?</p>	<p>Algebra is not a course that is offered through this pilot.</p>

