

District Office

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Michigan Virtual MIDDLE SCHOOL Online Classes

On-line classes are enrichment classes that are taught by certified teachers through Michigan Virtual Middle School (MiVMS). Each MiVMS teacher provides a syllabus and a pacing guide that is designed to help students stay on track throughout the semester-long course. These courses are geared toward disciplined students who are able to work independently and remain on task without the immediate support of an adult.

By approving this request, you are agreeing to be an active participant in your child's on-line learning experience. You are encouraged to frequently log on, monitor your child's grades, and assist as the mentor for the class.

In order to check your child's progress in an on-line course, you will have to log in to the MiVMS website. Any questions related to class content, student progress, or issued grades should be directed to the teacher of the class. Please know that your involvement will be critical in helping your student stay on track in the on-line

If students remain on school grounds, they will be expected to report to a pre-determined location each day during their on-line hour. Attendance will be taken. MMS will provide technical support if the student needs assistance. Students will need to be able to access their MiVMS class from home, as there is about one hour of additional homework per night. The student's final semester grade will be included on his/her middle school transcript.

Characteristics of successful online learners:

- Self-motivated & Independent - Students who can direct their own learning environment, fulfill course requirements and achieve individual academic success without the direct supervision of an adult.
- Time management - Students must be able to organize and plan their own best "time to learn." There is no one best time for everyone, but the key to learning is to commit the time to learn.
- Effective writing skills - Students must use electronic email to communicate with their peers as well as their instructors. The ability to write clearly in order to communicate ideas and assignments is very important to student success as well as a means to inform instructors of any concerns or problems.
- Personal commitment - Since there are no bells that begin and end classes, students must have a strong desire to learn and achieve knowledge and skills via online courses. Making a commitment to learn in this manner is a very personal decision and requires a strong commitment to participate in order to achieve academic success.

Is online learning right for me?

Online learning offers great flexibility for students of all skill sets, but it's important to know if it's the right learning style for you. These questions can help you make that determination.

Are you self-directed and motivated?

- Most online learning happens on your schedule.
- Online learners must be self-directed and motivated to complete activities and initiate the communication required to be successful.
- Online learners are responsible for creating the structure necessary to finish each course.

Are your technical skills adequate?

- You need to be comfortable with Internet browsing and searching, email, sending and reading attachments, word processing, and occasionally downloading and installing software plug-ins (a normally simple, but sometimes intimidating task).

Do you have strong reading/writing skills?

- The ability to read and comprehend subject matter without it being a chore is critical to your success.
- In most cases writing is the primary method of communication in online classes, so you should be at ease expressing your thoughts, sharing ideas, and asking questions through writing.

Will you ask questions when you need to?

- Since you'll be in an online environment it's important to let your instructor and classmates know when you need assistance.
- Remember they won't be able to see your expressions of doubt, confusion, or other body language to indicate when things aren't going well.
- Interaction with instructors and classmates in online learning is often an integral part of the learning
- Absent is the in-person contact — being able to see facial expressions, hear reactions, and speak.

Do you have the discipline to study regularly?

- Like a traditional school you'll need to set aside adequate time for study. It is recommended that you spend at least one hour per day on your online class. More so if the class is an Advanced Placement

Parents: Helping your child choose an on-line class: If you think your child possess the characteristics that it takes to be successful as an online learner, please view the available options by going to <http://www.mivhs.org/> . Click on "View Catalog." Click on the subject that interests you and scroll down to read about the various courses offered. Please note the description of AP, Basic, Blended, and Plus classes that is listed on the first page of each subject area.

Once you and your child have decided on a class, please fill out the information below and submit this page to the main office. Registration in an online course is semester long commitment. Students are not eligible to return to a traditional class until the next semester (in the event that the online course is dropped or otherwise not successfully completed).

Online learners will be required to complete the online readiness rubric:
http://mivhs.org/Portals/0/Files/Getting%20Started/RBC_OnlineLearningReadinessRubric_9.14.pdf

REQUEST FOR AN ON-LINE CLASS
(Request Deadlines: First Semester = June 1 / Second Semester = January 1)

Last Name: _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ School Year of Request: _____ - _____ Grade that Year: _____

Address: _____

Student's email address _____

Parent's email address _____

I have read the above information about the progress and grade reporting for Michigan Virtual Middle School on-line classes. I understand that monitoring the progress of on-line classes is the responsibility of the student and his/her parent. Questions regarding student grades and progress should be directed to the MiVMS teacher. Final grades will be posted on MMS report cards and transcript.

Student Signature _____ Parent Signature _____

MiVMS Class _____

Official School Response

Your child's request to enroll in the class requested above for the first / second semester of _____ - _____ school year has been _____ accepted _____ denied. (Reasons cited below.)

- The student already earned credits for the course (so the student would be repeating a course).
- The online course would not generate credits for the student's transcript.
- Enrollment in the online course is not consistent with the student's graduation requirements or with the student's career interests.
- The student does not have the prerequisite knowledge or skills for the course.
- The student has failed a previous online course in the same subject.
- The online course is of insufficient quality or rigor. We will make a reasonable effort to find an alternative online course that meets the school's requirements for quality and rigor.
- The cost of the course exceeds what the school is receives in foundation allowance.
- The request to enroll was made outside the established time for enrollment and schedule changes.

Please direct questions related to this denial to the building principal. If you would like to appeal this denial, you must write to WISD Superintendent. Your letter must 1. Include the reason (noted above) that the enrollment request was denied and 2. Explain why the student should be allowed to take the course.