

# The Village at Academy Online High School



# We believe...

- That the power of online curriculum is the opportunity to personalize the experience for each student.
- That a school can have both high expectations and a nurturing environment.
- That school is not always the most important thing in a student's life.
- That the world has changed more rapidly than our current educational system.
- That rather than preparing students for life beyond high school, a school should operate like an adult work place.

# We believe...

- That students should not have to sacrifice a great academic experience or social experience to pursue their passions.
- That students should have a loud voice in decisions made about their school.
- That when students are treated like adults, they act like adults.
- That students need teachers to be a mentor/coach, not to just share content knowledge.
- That school needs to change



- Hybrid/Blended program that maximizes the best of online learning (personalization) and in-person experiences (collaboration)
- Started as a pilot program with 25 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2015-2016 and have added a grade level each year.
- Asked the question: if we could build school from scratch, what would it look like?
- Grew to a school of 180 students, but plan to increase to 200 for the 2019-2020 school year (50 students per grade level)
- Had a waiting list of over 100 students for the 2018-2019 school year

# Online Core Classes

- Competency/mastery based curriculum: We use Accelerate Education for our courses and each course has a teacher that oversees the curriculum
- Students must show mastery to move forward in their courses
- Honors options are available for each core class
- Flexible due dates

# In Person Elective Classes

- **Recommended (Core) Electives**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Writing Lab, Health, Inquiry, Contemporary Problems
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Communicating in a Complex World, Inquiry, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Problems
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Career Explorations, Personal Finance, Current Legal Issues, Civics
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Each scheduled individually based on graduation needs and post-secondary plans.

- **Open Electives**

- Spanish 1-3, Art, PE (Lifetime and Personal Fitness), Publications, Math Lab
- Individual Projects (Coding, Novel Writing, Improv, Beekeeping, Poetry, 3D Modeling, Old School Gaming, Outdoor Survival, Conspiracy Theories)

- **Personal Reading Time**

# Our “Load-Bearing Walls”

- **Independence:** workers that need little supervision or direction
- **Literacy:** daily reading & appreciation for the written word
- **Wellness:** the lifelong pursuit of physical and mental health
- **Collaboration:** the ability to effectively work with others
- **Communication:** students need to be able to communicate effectively verbally and in writing.
- **Passion:** to understand what motivates each individual and how to make the world a better place

# Staff at The Village

- 15 staff members
- Teachers in each core content area, Art, PE, and an electives coordinator
- Academic and social-emotional counselor, College/career counselor, two office assistants
- Mentor teachers
- 1:1 instruction/consultants





# Flexible Schedule

- Flexible Schedule: Our students are “expected” to be in-building from 9:30-1:30 Monday-Thursday, but can access teachers in-building 7:30 am-3:30 pm
- Fridays are a flexible day and are used for extra help or staff planning days.
- Friday Intensive Electives: Ceramics, Outdoor Fitness, Rocky Mountain High, Individual Projects (Drones), Entrepreneurship

# Sample Schedules

## Student A

- 7:30 Arrival
- 7:30-9:30 Personal Learning time with help from staff
- 9:30-10:45 Problem Solving
- 10:45-11:15 Reading Time
- 11:15-12:15 Lunch
- 12:15-1:30 Study Hall
- 1:30-2:00 Mentor meeting
- 2:00 Depart
- 2:30 Practice for sport
- Friday Intensive Elective (Drones)

## Student B

- 7:30 Morning training session with coach or trainer
- 9:00 Arrival
- 9:00-9:30 Mentor meeting
- 9:30-10:45 Spanish 1
- 10:45-11:15 Reading Time
- 11:15-12:15 Lunch
- 12:15-1:30 Individ. Projects
- 1:30-3:15 Personal learning time with help from staff

## Student C

- 8:30 Arrival
- 8:30-9:00 Catch up with friends in student union
- 9:00-9:30 Talk to math teacher about integers
- 9:30-10:45 Publications
- 10:45-11:15 Reading Time
- 11:15-12:15 Lunch
- 12:15-1:15 PE Class
- 1:15-2:45 Theater class (PC)
- Evening: Personal learning

# The best of all worlds

Opportunity to pursue passion

Family time



Rigorous academic experience

Rich social experience

# Future Plans

- Advanced Placement courses: Fall of 2019
- Additional Friday Intensives: Art in Public Places & Community Leadership (in partnership with Leadership Pikes Peak)
- CAPS: Center for Advanced Professional Studies (industry based problem solving experiences/projects)
- Increase opportunities for internships and mentorships: Work based learning opportunities for upperclassmen to gain experience in potential career fields

# Enrollment process

1. Fill out Village application: online or hard copy
2. Submit application via e-mail or in-person
3. Schedule a meeting/interview with principal
4. Receive letter of acceptance
5. Enrollment is changed for in-district students to AOHS, out of district students need to enroll in the district and designate AOHS as the school of enrollment

\*\*\*Interest list for younger students

