

Regarding Digital Learning @ IRHS

To whom it may concern:

My name is Leif Erickson, and I am your son or daughter's digital learning facilitator this year at Ironwood Ridge. To begin, I apologize for the amount of information in this letter, but I wanted to take this opportunity to give you a solid snapshot of the digital learning program your son or daughter is in. Much of the information below regards Mesa Distance Learning Program (**MDLP**) courses, but we also use the Edgenuity, OdysseyWare, and Pima Community College (PCC) dual enrollment programs which will be referenced below.

MDLP courses are handled by an online instructor in Mesa, AZ. Each student needs to be in communication with that teacher. I will be helping with this communication. If your son or daughter is working on a different program, I will be the online instructor and will follow, for the most part, the MDLP guidelines. For all programs, I am here to help the students work through their courses by assisting with the content of the course as well as any technical issues that may arise.

NOTE: Edgenuity and OdysseyWare will be handled solely by me. Dual enrollment with PCC will be handled by the Pima College instructor online.

Regarding MDLP courses, it is extremely important to know that if a student does not reach 20% completion by the 29th day from the date enrolled in the course, the student will be dropped from the course without penalty. At this time, the student may or may not be able to continue with an online course. The fact that the student is not able to complete this first 20% on time indicates that online courses may not be suited for the student (**This means that most students should be well passed 20% completion by September 6th.** This **does not** apply to PCC, Edgenuity, nor OdysseyWare.

Additionally, those students using MDLP who do successfully complete 20% of their course work by the 29th day must complete the course by the end of the semester, or receive an "F" for the class on their transcript. At the 20% mark, the school is billed \$175.00, so the student is then committed to complete the course.

The Goal for all courses (EXCEPT PCC dual enrollment)

The goal for each student (no matter what program is being used) is to complete a ½ credit course in 9-12 weeks even though the Mesa Distance Learning Program gives the student 18 weeks. The nine-week goal is there so that the students can get caught up

on credits in a timely manner, and all of these courses are designed to be completed in 9-12 weeks.. In order to get the students to achieve this, they are expected to complete 8% of a course per week. Please refer to the student contract (attached) for further details. The PCC courses are designed to take semester.

If your child does fall behind, I will be doing everything I can to get him/her caught up. This includes possibly sending you progress updates so that you can encourage him/her to get more work done at home. Ultimately, the success of online courses is on the student. I can only help and encourage. Needless to say, **all distance learning students need to get a great deal of their online courses completed at home.** I encourage you to have your child logon at home and show you what he or she is working on.

The other important aspect of **all online courses offered** through IRHS Digital Learning is that **students must pass the final exam** in order to earn credit in the course. If the student does not pass the final, the student fails the course and an "F" will be put on their transcript (the students get two attempts at the final exam which is taken in class and proctored by me). I have had students fail courses with grades of 80% or better on all of the coursework by failing the final exam (this indicates cheating or taking shortcuts throughout the coursework).

The COVID Online Changes:

Currently not applicable. My classes will follow the standard school guidelines for COVID-19.

Possible Issues May Arise:

Complications, issues, and general trial and error should be expected as the COVID situation continues to progress. I will keep posting on my website that is accessed on the IRHS web page: <https://www.amphi.com/Domain/247>

I hope this helps, and if you have any questions or concerns, please email me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Leif Erickson (Digital Learning Program @ IRHS)

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