



SOUTH HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

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Online Parent Letter

Dear Parents,

The State of Michigan under Section 21f of the State School Aid Act has launched the choice for parents to request that their child(ren), in grades 5-12, be enrolled in no more than two (2) online courses in place of a currently scheduled course. The South Haven Public School District (SHPS) supports online learning, and as a district, we pride ourselves on forward movement on innovative uses of technology to support learning. However, we encourage parents to consider carefully if a 100 percent online course is ideal for their child given the fact that they will be forfeiting face-to-face teacher classroom instruction and support. (Check the registration deadlines).

Although many of our students have been successful taking online courses, parents and students should carefully consider the unique qualities of their child(ren) when investigating if an online class is the best instructional fit for them. These factors include:

- Can your child create and maintain a study schedule without face-to-face interaction of a teacher?
- Can your child self-advocate to seek help with a virtual setting?
- Does your child possess the independent study habits needed to complete an entire course online without direct supervision?
- Does your child have the reading, writing, math, and computer literacy skills to succeed in a class that is completely online?
- Additional information is contained within the Parent Guide to Online Learning.

It is important to note that this option is limited to choices available from the online classes that are listed within the state online course catalog at <https://micourses.org>. Additionally, availability of courses is not guaranteed. Courses may have a class size limit. A second alternative to online learning is available through our Edgenuity program. For courses offered through this program, please contact your child's counselor. Lastly, questions that should be considered and that will be discussed with your counselor before any decisions are made include:

- Have I already taken this course for credit?
- Does this course keep me on track for MMC credits and graduation?
- Does this course generate an academic credit?
- Do I possess the prerequisite skills necessary to be successful in this class?
- Does this course possess sufficient rigor to help me be Career, College, and Life Ready?

Should you request that your child(ren) participate in the online class experience, please note the following:

- The highly qualified teacher providing the content for the course will only be available remotely via email or possibly phone and will not be a SHPS employee.

- Students will work independently outside of the traditional classroom setting, and will not be present with their current teacher or classmates during that subject.
- Students will be monitored by a SHPS para-professional or support staff member.
- Changes to the existing students schedule could be made.
- If approved, both parent/guardian and student must agree to the 21f Online Learning Course Student Contract

We have posted other items on our website to help parents and students make appropriate selections for online courses. Please refer to:

- Online Learner Readiness Rubric
- The link to Parent Guide to Online Learning published by MVU.
- Online Readiness Questionnaire.
- The Michigan Online Course Catalog at www.MIVU.org, see Statewide Catalog button.
- SHPS Online Learning Application Form.
- Online Learning Contract.

If you are interested in enrolling in an online course, make sure that you have read the above documents. Schedule a meeting with the building counselor or principal during the course registration window. All requests must be submitted at a minimum of one month prior to the start of each semester. Complete and bring the Online Readiness Questionnaire, the SHPS Online Learning Application Form, and the Online Learning Contract to this meeting.

Sincerely,



Jerome J. Sardina
Principal
South Haven High School