



SUCCESS STORY

Dover High School – Dover, DE

The Flexibility to Support All Alternative Learning Situation

Overview

Like many other schools, Dover High School in Dover, Delaware has had an after school program designed to let 12th grade students make up credits they are missing from failing previous grade levels. Without these credits, these students would not graduate on time and would likely drop out. Serving roughly 50 students per year, the Twilight program at Dover has helped at-risk students for many years.

Principal Evelyn Edney, her co-principal Kenneth Garvey, and the rest of the staff at Dover realized that a significant number of their at-risk students were being missed by the Twilight program or it simply did not afford them enough time to recover the necessary credits. As students with nothing to lose often do, the students who were not on track to graduate were becoming disruptions in their classrooms during the traditional school day, often on their way to dropping out completely. If Dover High could find a way to keep these students engaged and on track to graduate, they could solve an increasing amount of classroom disruptions while giving these students an opportunity to change the trajectory of their lives.

How they did it

The Twilight program at Dover High has been using Edmentum's EdOptions Academy for over four years, enabling the school to expanding its offerings for at-risk seniors while still offering a rigorous curriculum delivered online. When it was decided to expand Dover's credit recovery program to regular school hours, in a program called Daylight, Edmentum was again approached to supplement the program. This time, Plato Courseware would be used to address the differentiation needs of students who, in many cases, were further behind grade level than their classmates in the Twilight program were. "We liked the versatility of the programs and how they could meet the wide-ranging needs of these students," said Dr. Edney. "We like the mix of being reading-intensive while still being visually interactive."

Daylight is offered in three-hour blocks Monday through Thursday to fit with a student's other scheduling needs. Students must be 17 years or older

School

Dover High School, Capital School District, Dover, DE

Demographics

52% African-American
35% Caucasian
8% Hispanic
57% eligible for free/reduced lunch

Students

1,619, grades 9-12

Contact

Dr. Evelyn Edney, Co-Principal

and behind grade level in their studies. A certified teacher is in the room at all times while they are working on their Plato curriculum to help support the students. "Teachers spend multiple hours with these students either confronting repeated disruptions in the classroom, making parent phone calls, writing referrals, sending class work to the CARE room, attending parent-student-teacher conferences, and so forth," reports Dr. Edney. "The students may not have the skills needed to complete the school work in a bigger class setting, which is why an alternative was needed."

Success

As per usual, the Twilight program at Dover served 45 students this school year, helping many of them graduate when otherwise they would not have done so. In its first year, the Daylight program served 29 students - 22 of those graduated with their classmates in June. The other seven are on track to complete their curriculums during the summer and will graduate in August.

"We are so pleased with the adoption of the Daylight program. We have seen a change in the attitudes of our students who had convinced themselves to give up. Within a week of using the program, they were smiling and saying, 'I can do this.'"

Dr. Edney also believes that the Daylight and Twilight programs, with help from Plato Courseware and the EdOptions Academy, are doing nothing short of saving lives. "I believe that because of Edmentum and the products we use from there, we are saving lives, saving students from being high school drop-outs."

Next steps

Dover High School is so pleased with the success they experienced with Plato Courseware and the EdOptions Academy that they feel confident in their abilities to expand the Daylight and Twilight programs whenever the need arises. At a school that grew by more than 1,000 students last year, that need might come sooner rather than later.

For more information

Contact 800.447.5286 or visit www.edmentum.com to learn more about Edmentum online learning solutions.



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edmentum.com
800.447.5286
info@edmentum.com
0118-15 0701913

5600 West 83rd Street
Suite 300, 8200 Tower
Bloomington, MN 55437

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