

***Options* Grades 6-12 Newsletter**

September 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

The first week is behind us, and everyone has learned a lot this week, if just how to use all the technology. I congratulate all of the hard-working students, parents and staff who, although sometimes frustrated, pushed to get through a very difficult week together. It will certainly get better from here!

Below are some important resources to make the virtual learning experience much better for all involved. There is a LOT to digest here. Please take time over this week to read and become familiar with these resources, as they will come on line and be available to all students and parents at the beginning of this week.

Student Manual

Here is the link to the Edgenuity Student Manual, which will help explain issues and guide students and parents through the process of using Edgenuity: [Edgenuity Student Manual](#).

Family Portal Login and Document

By this next week, parents will receive by email a letter from Edgenuity, inviting them to join the Family Portal. You will need to wait until you receive a 4-digit code from the Options staff. Then the link they sent in the email from Edgenuity takes you to a page that says Family Portal. Below the login info, in small white letters, there is a link to activate. Click that link, go to the activation page and enter your username and code, then a password. Then you should be able to log in with your password. In the Family Portal, you can check on a student's progress at any time, including scores, grade and time spent. Here is a link to the Family Portal document on Edgenuity, with more detail:

<https://help.edgenuitycourseware.com/hc/en-us/articles/360052892293> .

Guided Notes

Many of the lesson activities feature a link on top of the activity window to "guided notes." This PDF document is useful for helping the student organize their notetaking and stay focused on the material, and can be a useful help on quizzes and tests, as well. Guided notes are not turned in or graded.

On Demand Tutoring Document

Fern Ridge Options purchased On Demand tutoring services for our courses this year. This service offers live tutoring service, seven days a week, when a student is working inside an activity. The service can be accessed by clicking the blue box in the bottom right corner of the activity. Here is a link to the Edgenuity flyer on Concept Coaches, that provides more information: [On Demand Tutoring](#).

Weekly Reports

By Tuesday 9/29, Options will be set up to send out weekly progress reports to parents with an email on file within our system. Here is a link to the Edgenuity Flyer that further explains how a parent can

monitor a student's progress: <https://www.edgenuity.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/edgenuity-monitoring-your-students-progress-flyer.pdf>.

Work Load

When the FRSD instructors for each course customized our course catalog at the beginning of September, they were instructed to build a course that varied from 50-60 hours, according to Edgenuity estimates. While this schedule is fine for our grade 6-8 students, it creates a serious crunch for our high school students, who did not start until Sept 22nd, are expected to finish on November 13th, and had problems with getting logged in and other technology. As a result, we will be looking to adjust the course load to properly reflect the number of hours a student should be working in a high school course. The courses for this term should be about 40 hours long, by the time we finish adjusting, and that will alleviate some of the stress on student schedules.

Attendance

The State of Oregon, in their "Ready Schools, Safe Learning Guidance for 2020-21," requires that students in the Options program are in contact with each class teacher in grades 6-12, or an instructional assistant, during the 24-hour period of a scheduled school day (i.e. Tuesday-Friday in Fern Ridge). Contact may take any of these forms:

- o Participating in a video Zoom class—independent students still email Brenda Russell (see below) if you only Zoom and don't use Edgenuity on a scheduled day;
- o Communication from the student to the teacher via chat, text message, communication app or email;
- o A phone call between the teacher or educational assistants/paraprofessionals and the student, or, for younger students, with the parent or guardian of the student;
- o Posting completed coursework to a learning management system or web-based platform or via email; or
- o Turning in completed coursework on a given day.

Options has assigned Ms. Brenda Russell as a "Course Instructional Assistant" in charge of virtual attendance. If a student is not working online in a class on Tuesday through Friday, and/or did not attend a Zoom session, they should send an email to Ms. Russell at brussell@fernridge.k12.or.us, and let her know they were unable to work presently, and how they plan to complete the scheduled work for the day (even if they are planning to make it up the next day or on the weekend, they should let her know their plan). If a student in the Options Structured group cannot attend a Zoom session, they should include their course teacher in the same email, in order to avoid being counted absent for the class.

- When there is no evidence of student interaction during a 24-hour period surrounding a scheduled school day as described, students are reported as absent for the day. (Note: for elementary the standard is not by subject—it is just once a day by course, such as First Grade).

Here is a link to the document, with the Attendance information starting on page 35:

https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Ready_Schools_Safe_Learners_2020-21_Guidance.pdf .

At Options, we care about every student's success and will do all that we can to support you. We ask the students to give their full effort, and wish you all a great year of exploration and learning!

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