

Section 21f Online Courses at Bellaire Public Schools

The State of Michigan, under Section 21f of the State School Aid Act, has launched the choice for parents to request that their student(s), in grades 5-12, be enrolled in no more than two (2) online courses in place of a currently scheduled course per semester. Bellaire Public Schools encourages students to take courses taught by our own highly qualified teaching staff but does support online learning and utilizes online courses for electives, required courses, credit-recovery and meeting graduation requirements. In Bellaire classrooms, student performance is noteworthy and impressive in terms of accomplishments and achievement. Therefore, we encourage parents to carefully consider if a 100% online course is ideal for their child given the fact that in online environments, students will be forfeiting the face-to-face teacher classroom instruction and support from which they are experiencing success.

Parents should carefully consider the unique qualities of their child when investigating if an online class is right for him/her. The factors include, but are not limited to:

- Can your student create and maintain a study schedule without face-to-face interaction with a teacher?
- Can your student self-advocate to seek help within a virtual setting?
- Does your student possess the independent study habits necessary to complete an entire course online without direct supervision?
- Does your student have the reading, writing, math and computer literacy skills necessary to succeed in a class that is completely online? Additional information can be found in the "Parent Guide to Online Learning"
http://media.mivu.org/institute/pdf/parent_guide_2013.pdf
- It is important to note that this option is limited to online courses that are listed within the state online course catalog that is now available at <https://micourses.org> and is also found along the margin of our school's website. While all of these classes are reviewed from each sponsoring district, these courses may not necessarily meet the rigor of courses for Bellaire Public Schools from a credit or graduation requirement perspective and are, therefore, subject to administrative approval. Additionally, availability of courses is not guaranteed. Courses may have a class size limit and, should that limit be exceeded, students may not be able to take the course that they want.
- All online courses taken for high school credit will count toward the student's overall grade point average (GPA). Credit-recovery courses are taken as pass/fail.
- Additionally, the NCAA may/may not recognize any core content courses offered from Section 21f options.

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

- The highly qualified teacher providing content for the course will only be available remotely via email, text or possibly phone and will not be a Bellaire Public Schools teacher.
- 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 their online instructor; all inquiries about the course once the student is registered for it, must be between the student and the instructor of the course.
- Students will be monitored by a Bellaire paraprofessional who will serve as the conduit between the online instructor and the District. They will provide encouragement and attempt to motivate the student as they take the class but they have no responsibility for the subject area – that is the role of the online instructor.
- If approved, both parent and student must agree to the 21f Online Learning Course Contract.
- If an online course is failed, that failure may result in your student not being able to take another online class. Also, parents may be responsible to reimburse the school for the cost of the failed online class.

Parents should use the Online Course Request Form found on the district website at www.bellairepublicschools.com . Online enrollment does impact staffing and schedule considerations so early registration for these courses is necessary.

Should you have additional questions about online learning opportunities or would like to further discuss the online option, please contact Ms. Stevens, K-12 counselor.

Sincerely,

James R. Emery
Superintendent