

## PVHS Independent Study Programs

Changing schools requires careful planning and thoughtful decision making. Although alternative educational programs offer some students avenues for success, many students making changes for the sake of change have difficulty adapting to alternative programs. Major changes in learning modes, life styles, and patterns of socialization are often required for success in alternative educational programs. Use this guide to help you and your parents make the best decision possible regarding alternative educational programs.

### PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM

PVHS Independent Study Program (9-12) is an alternative education program which helps students stay enrolled and connected to school. Our students meet the same requirements for standards, benchmarks and promotion as do students enrolled in daily attendance schools throughout the district. As an alternative to comprehensive classroom instruction, we offer an instructional strategy to assist students who choose to be educated at home. Student, parent and teacher work as a team to respond to the student's specific educational needs, interests, aptitude, and abilities within the confines of state law and CUSD school board policy.

Active participation by each member of the team is encouraged to facilitate a successful educational experience for the student. Not all pupils make good candidates for this instructional strategy. Students who are successful in Independent Study are **self-motivated, able to work independently, and adept with reading and comprehension skills**. Students are placed into Independent Study by graduation priority.

### CREDIT RECOVERY

PVHS offers credit recovery through our Independent Study Program. Contact counselors for information.

### PVHS ONLINE/EDMENTUM

PVHS Online Program (9-12) is an alternative education program to help students stay enrolled and connected to school. The PVHS Online program students meet the same requirements for standards, benchmarks and promotion as do students enrolled in daily attendance schools throughout the district. As an alternative to comprehensive classroom instruction, we offer an online program to assist students who choose to be educated mostly at home through online instruction. Student, parent and teacher work as a team to respond to the student's specific educational needs, interests, aptitude, and abilities within the confines of state law and CUSD school board policy. Active participation by each member of the team is encouraged to facilitate a successful educational experience for the student. **Not all pupils make good candidates for the online program. Students who are successful with the online program are self-**

**motivated, able to work independently, and adept with reading, comprehension skills and are technologically capable.**

**Teacher:**

All teachers are fully credentialed by the State of California and employed by the Chico Unified School District. Teacher assignments for individual students are based on teacher availability and an assessment to student/family needs.

**Responsibilities of the teacher include:**

- Meeting with student at his/her weekly assigned appointment.
- Assessing student's academic level and assigning curriculum to meet district and state guidelines.
- Monitoring student progress and insuring the student is meeting minimum standards.
- Administering district and state mandated tests.
- Maintaining records of academic performance including, but not limited to a report card and portfolio of student work.
- Suggesting and/or providing activities which enrich the curriculum and provide students with some peer and/or group interaction.
- Informing students and parents/guardians of resources available throughout the school district.

**Parents/Guardians:**

Parents/guardians play a pivotal role in the education of a successful online student. Students who succeed with this alternative instructional strategy need a strong support system to help balance the loss of daily contact with peers in a traditional school setting. Additionally, parents/guardians need to be willing and able to offer tutorial help to their student students, who are meeting weekly, rather than daily, with a teacher. Parents/guardians should be cautioned that their student's compulsory school attendance is calculated according to daily log-ins by the student.

**Responsibilities of parents/guardians include:**

- Providing a suitable environment for students to study at home.
- Providing student access to the internet. A ChromeBook can be provided by the teacher if needed.
- Taking an active interest in the student's daily learning and completion of assignments.
- Providing transportation, if necessary, for the student to make their regularly scheduled weekly appointment with the teacher.
- Notifying, in a timely manner, the teacher and/or administrator with any concerns regarding the educational progress of their student.
- Paying for costs and replacement of books, materials, equipment or other resources checked out to the student if they are lost or damaged, beyond normal wear and tear.

- Ensuring the student's voluntary enrollment in and understanding of independent study, and facilitating the student's transfer to classroom instruction when appropriate or desired.

### **Student Information:**

The PVHS Online Independent Study Program provides an educational opportunity for students who cannot or choose not to attend school on a daily basis. PVHS Online is a voluntary alternative option. No student may be placed in the program without their consent. However, online education is not appropriate for every student. Strong reading and comprehension skills are required to complete assignments and Mastery tests. With a minimum of teacher assistance, a support system of family and friends is a must. Students should be mature, self-motivated, and able to work independently.

### **Student responsibilities include:**

- Attending regularly scheduled weekly appointments with your teacher as specified during the orientation meeting.
- Communicating with your teacher throughout the week, requesting help, if needed, in a timely manner. Coming into the center to receive additional help, if suggested.
- Working daily on each course assigned.
- Completing (and turning in for assessment) all assignments on your weekly assignment report by the due date and time of your next weekly meeting.
- Participating in all district and state mandated tests.

### **Enrollment Procedure**

Pre-enrollment for student currently enrolled in CUSD The parent/guardian requests a referral from the counselor of the school. A meeting will then take place between the counselor, parent/guardian, and student to discuss the requirements for PVHS Online Program. Parent/guardian will be informed that their request has been received and, when space is available, student and parent/guardian will be invited to an orientation meeting with a teacher. Pre-enrollment for student currently enrolled outside CUSD If a student is new to the district, the parent/guardian will need to schedule a meeting with the counselor at PVHS to discuss enrollment. Parent/guardian should bring any school records for their student to that meeting (transcripts, exit grades, etc.).

An enrollment conference will take place at a general orientation meeting or as a meeting with the supervising teacher. During the meeting, student and parent/guardian will complete all necessary paperwork, including an online contract. A regular weekly appointment time will be established for the student's meetings with the teacher.

### **Initial Meeting with Supervising Teacher**

Upon enrollment, the student will meet with their supervising teacher at a regularly established time and day. The student will be given courses and instruction on how the system works. The students will also be

given the appropriate educational materials to complete coursework. Rules of the program will be covered and contact information exchanged.

**ATTENDANCE ACCOUNTING FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS:**

As an alternative educational strategy, PVHS Online cannot legally claim attendance credit in the same manner as is claimed at a comprehensive classroom-based setting. The state required method for attendance accounting is referred to as a log-on based system. A student must log on to the system to earn attendance credit for that day. School Calendar. The PVHS Online Program follows the traditional school calendar in grades 9-12. Copies of the school calendar can be obtained at the CUSD website ([www.chicousd.org](http://www.chicousd.org)) or by calling the Educational Services office at CUSD (891-3014).

**GRADES AND REPORT CARDS FOR ISP:**

Students in grades 9-12 are assigned credits for all completed courses. The supervising teacher will evaluate the student's work and assign grades at the end of each semester. If a student fails to complete a class, the student will be given an incomplete or a failing grade. Updated progress reports are communicated to students during their regularly scheduled appointment time. Students who do not meet the minimum attendance requirement while enrolled in the Independent Study program, will be referred to a daily school setting.