

PROGRAM:

Computer Assisted Toppenish School (CATS) Web Academy

OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of the CATS Web Academy is to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn and to graduate from high school. Working with students and their families, the CATS Web Academy has provided students a personalized computer-assisted academic education equivalent to that received in an ordinary public school. The CATS Academy has provided educational opportunities and the possibility to graduate from high school to students who frequently have had limited success in traditional educational institutions.

LOCATION:

Toppenish School District

DESCRIPTION:

The Toppenish School District has recognized and celebrated the diversity of its schools and community. Because of the diversity of students attending schools in the area, the district built an intervention and support system for students with attendance and behavioral challenges. The system has also served students who prefer to learn and gain their education online. The CATS Web Academy has been an integral part of the school district administration's response to the diverse needs of its students. In addition to the CATS Web Academy, instructional supports have included focused reading and math, transition-to-work focus at the EAGLE Alternative Junior / Senior High School, and the Safe Haven Independent Contract School (associated with EAGLE). The central belief of the district administration has been that the school district must provide educational support to every level of student achievement and circumstance. The goal has been to offer educational programs that correspond to students' level of literacy, family circumstances, and work schedules.

Students in the CATS Web Academy have tended to have more attendance and behavioral challenges than students in the regular program. Successful CATS students have been characterized by strong home support, a desire to do schoolwork online, and the ability to read and comprehend at grade level. The CATS Web Academy has used a computer-assisted, certificated tutorial-supported instructional model with Odyssey Ware, Inc., and online 3-12 curriculum as the instructional instrument.

The Official CATS Web Academy Values have been established as follows:

- Self-motivation for responsibility.
- Respect of self, others and school property.
- Integrity, honesty and accountability, valuing the work ethic.
- Enrichment of the educational experience beyond what CATS has provided.
- Preparation for the next educational experience.

In addition to offering courses for students with computers and online access at home, the CATS Web Academy has also offered a computer lab onsite for students who do not have access to the Internet at home. The computer lab has been in a large room with 20 desktop computers. An additional 50 laptop computers have been ready for use as needed, and available for students to check out.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:

Arrangements were made by the district administration to staff the program with staff members experienced with computer-assisted learning and online learning. A facility with computers, open during daytime and evening hours was established, and rights to the CATS program, developed in Mexico, were secured.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

Student achievement is monitored by subject completion and qualifications to be on track for high school graduation.

COSTS OR COST CONSIDERATIONS:

- Classroom space and set-up with 20 computers and 50 laptops.
- Hire staff members experienced with computer-assisted learning and online learning.
- Costs associated with purchasing CATS Web Academy program.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

John Cerna, Assistant Superintendent
Toppenish School District
306 Bolin Drive
Toppenish WA 98948
(509) 865-4455
jcerna@toppenish.wednet.edu

RESOURCES:

CATS Web Academy Program Manual for Toppenish School District