

QUESTION AND ANSWER SHEET
for
Okaloosa Online
in partnership with
Florida Virtual School

1. What is Okaloosa Online and why should my student consider enrolling?

Okaloosa Online has formed a partnership with the Florida Virtual School, an international established leader in developing and providing virtual K-12 education solutions. Okaloosa Online will offer 50 courses, providing educational course selections for grades 7 through 12. Courses are free to our students and are available to public, private, and home school students in Okaloosa County. Online courses offer a viable solution for students in a variety of scenarios: courses not available at the local school, courses in conflict in the schedule, courses for advancement, and courses when the student is ill or injured, or must be out of school for a number of reasons and desires to maintain educational stability.

2. How do I register for Okaloosa Online?

Now that the Okaloosa School District offers the FLVS, there is no need to go through them in order to register; all registrations are now handled through Okaloosa School District with Okaloosa Online. A registration website is available to refer students and parents.

3. Will there be a fee for these courses?

No, there will not be a charge to our public school students for these courses, since our School Board has franchised the courses. Okaloosa Online courses are available free to our students.

4. What is the difference between the role of a facilitator in the classroom and an online teacher?

A facilitator for an online class is not the teacher, but is responsible for making sure students are on the correct instructional site and are working according to their pace chart. An online teacher is responsible for the content instruction of the course. He or she may be physically at your school or at another school, instructing students 'at a distance'.

5. How will I know that the courses taken from Okaloosa Online are valid courses?

Okaloosa Online is a franchisee of Florida Virtual School which is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and all courses are NCAA approved.

6. Are the teachers as prepared as those in face to face classrooms?

All Okaloosa Online teachers possess a valid Florida teaching certificate and are certified specifically in the subject they teach. They have all had classroom experience and have been through training specific to the online environment, as well.

7. How are the courses delivered?

All Okaloosa Online courses are delivered over the Internet. To help assure student success with virtual learning, a variety of web-based, technology-based and traditional resources are provided. In addition, teachers communicate with students and parents on a regular basis via e-mail and discussion forums.

8. How long does a student have to complete a course?

Full-credit courses usually run approximately 36 weeks and half-credit courses run 18 weeks. Students are welcome to work ahead, but must maintain a minimum pace to remain in course.

9. How does an online course work? Does a student work on his own pace?

Okaloosa Online students are guided through their courses by state-certified instructors. At any hour of the day, active students open the Okaloosa Online website (<http://www.osd.flvs.net>), log onto the class, and submit work to be graded. Teachers evaluate student work and send back grades and comments. Many students report experiencing more contact with their online instructor than they do in a traditional setting. While students are welcome to work ahead, they must maintain a minimum pace to remain in the course. Before students begin a course, teachers make welcome phone calls to discuss course details, including pace.

10. What books/materials do students need for the course?

Students and parents can view a list of materials needed for each course by going to the Okaloosa Online website, clicking on the STUDENT icon, clicking on COURSE CATALOG, then on the course list. Under "View the fall 2004 Course

List” you will see the courses. Select the course the student is currently taking, and look under the “Course Materials” section.

11. Is there anything else that a student will need?

A student needs access to the Internet and an e-mail account.

12. When do courses start?

Fall courses typically start first day of first semester. Spring courses start first day of second semester.

13. How will the local teachers be paid?

For 2004-2005, teachers will be paid for each student who completes a semester or year-long course with a “D” or better.

14. How will students access our online courses?

During the school day, students may access the courses in any configuration that their school has designed for them: either in a computer lab, computers in a classroom, the media center, or other. During the remainder of time, students can access the courses from home or other Internet access point.

15. Additional questions or comments should be e-mailed to Connie Blanchard at blanchardc@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us