



HOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
“Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence”

SUPERINTENDENT /
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
JASON KENNEDY

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL
ADAM BAYNE

January 17, 2014

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

The State of Michigan, under Section 21f of the State School Aid Act, has recently enacted the opportunity 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. Holton Public Schools continues to support online learning, and as a school district, we continue to take pride in the innovative uses of technology that are employed by our highly qualified teaching staff to support students and their learning. This is evident by the Board of Education’s recent adoption of a one – to one computer initiative at Holton High School, along with various other integrated technology supports in grades K-12. We are poised well to assist students in meeting the unique individual needs of each child that attends Holton Public Schools.

However, having said this, we encourage parents to carefully consider whether an online course is ideal for their child. In doing so, it is important to understand that your student will likely forfeit having a face-to-face interaction with a teacher, and that the classroom instruction and support provided to your child will likely be through an electronic means. The Section 21f option will be available for students at Holton Public Schools; however, parents should carefully consider the unique qualities of their child when deciding whether an online class is right for them. Parents and students should consider the following factors, which include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Can your student create and maintain a study schedule throughout the semester without the face-to-face interaction of a teacher?
- 2) Can your student ask for help, make contact with other students and the instructor online, and describe any problems that he or she may be having through the use of e-mail, text messaging, and/or the telephone?
- 3) Can your student study and complete assignments without direct supervision and maintain the self-discipline to complete an entire course of study?
- 4) Does your student have a strong desire to learn skills, acquire knowledge, and fulfill assignments to complete their coursework? Does your student have the reading, writing, mathematics, and computer literacy skills to succeed in a class that is completely online?
- 5) Is your student technologically prepared to succeed in a course that is 100% online?

Source: Michigan Virtual University – Parent’s Guide to Online Learning

Please know that this option is limited to the course selections available from the online classes that are listed within the state online course catalog, which can be found at <https://micourses.org>. Further, while all of these classes have been reviewed from each sponsoring local district, these courses may not necessarily meet the rigor of courses for Holton Public Schools, as defined by the graduation requirements approved by the Board of Education, and are therefore, subject to administrative approval. In addition, it should be noted that the availability of online courses is not guaranteed, as courses may have a class size limit. Should the class size limit be exceeded, students will be placed into the course based upon a random draw system to comply with state and national anti-discrimination statutes.



HOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
“Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence”

SUPERINTENDENT /
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
JASON KENNEDY

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL
ADAM BAYNE

Please keep in mind that should you request your child to participate in the online class experience, as outlined in Section 21f, please be sure to take note of the following:

- The highly qualified teacher providing content for the course will only be available remotely through email, or through an occasional telephone conversation. This individual will not be an employee of Holton Public Schools.
- During the time of the day in which the online course is taken by the student, students will work independently outside of the traditional classroom setting, and will not be present with their current teacher or classmates during that subject.
- If approved, both the parent and the student must agree to the Section 21f Online Learning Course Contract. Violations of the course contract may result in dismissal from the course or the issuance of a failing grade, as assigned by the course content teacher.

Parents who wish to enroll their child in this learning option must complete the Section 21f Online Learning Application for Course Enrollment found on the school district’s website. Enrollment in this program will follow the established course selection timeline of Holton Public Schools at the secondary level, and requests for the online option at the elementary level must be submitted in writing to the elementary principal for consideration prior to April 30th in order to be considered for the following year.

If you have any additional questions, or would like to discuss options available to students under Section 21f, please feel free to contact your child’s principal or guidance counselor. We look forward to working closely together to ensure that your child receives the best education that he or she deserves.

Respectfully,

Jason J. Kennedy
Superintendent / Elementary Principal

Adam Bayne
Secondary Principal