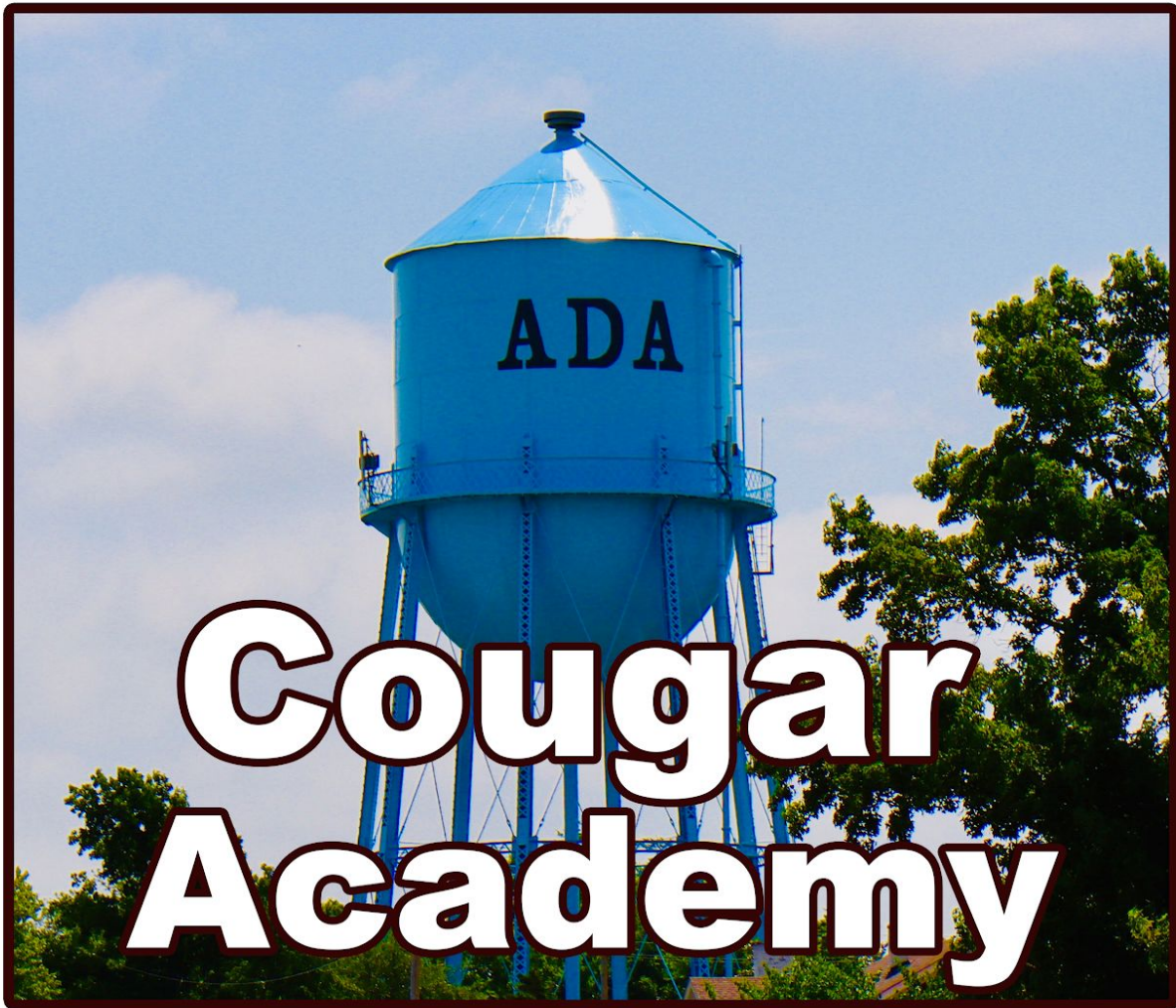


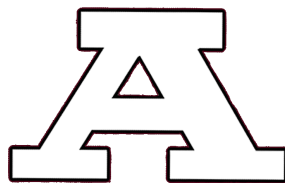
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“Excellence in Online Learning”

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“Providing opportunities to meet the needs of ALL our students”

Our Belief

The Ada City School District will open school this school year by providing opportunities and options to meet the needs of **ALL** of our students. One of those options will always be the traditional school setting, with highly qualified teachers in every classroom providing face-to-face interaction and instruction with our students. It is the belief of this District that the traditional school environment is the most appropriate setting for the vast majority of our students.

The traditional school environment provides a better combination of hands on instruction, authentic learning, social interaction and student support than any other environment. And let’s not forget, technology will play a bigger role in this setting than ever before with 1:1 technology being provided to our students.

We have not forgotten who we are and what this community needs. The Ada City School District prides itself on our tradition, the diverse nature of our student population, and for providing opportunities for **ALL** students.

The following are just a few examples of the many opportunities available at Ada City Schools:

- An Aviation program that provides awareness for students in Pre-K through 12th grade
- STEM Labs in every building
- Leadership programs at every grade level
- The *Leader in Me* programs in grades Pre-K - 4th grade
- *AVID* Elementary programming at Willard Grade Center
- Certified Music teachers at every grade level
- Certified Instrumental Music teachers and band in grades 6 - 12
- 11 Advanced Placement courses at Ada High School
- A Performing Arts program with more than 200 students enrolled in grades 7-12
- Championship academic teams
- Championship athletic teams
- Career Tech classes, Concurrent Enrollment, and Internships



There has been a great deal of talk, not only in Oklahoma, but across the nation about the need for virtual and blended learning opportunities. We are fully aware of the need for this type of school setting and learning platform. Therefore, if your child has a need, we will meet them where they are! If the traditional school setting is not the best option for your child, we are proud to offer the **Cougar Academy!**



What is Cougar Academy?

The Ada City School District is expanding educational opportunities to better accommodate the needs of students and families. The Cougar Academy (CA) is for students who would benefit from a virtual education solution due to health concerns, scheduling conflicts, or other extenuating circumstances that would best be served through virtual online learning.

The Academy will provide an innovative opportunity for customized learning for students in grades K-12. In addition, secondary students may have an option to access all courses online or blend their learning experience by attending some classes in person at their school site. For example, a secondary student could choose to participate in on-site co-curricular activities such as athletics and/or fine arts programs if enrolled in those on-site courses.

The free virtual education program offers a self-paced education for students enrolled in the Cougar Academy. The CA team, composed of a coordinator, site principal, counselor, parent, and student, will determine the best option to meet the student's needs. The CA Coordinator and/or the certified teacher will monitor student progress weekly through in-person and/or virtual meetings, email or phone calls.

Our Mission

The mission of the Cougar Academy is to provide opportunities to meet the needs of **ALL** of our students. The CA is designed to provide Ada City School students options to succeed academically and meet the challenges of our evolving educational climate.

Contact Information: cougaracademy@adapss.com



District Calendar

ADA CITY SCHOOLS | 2020-2021 CALENDAR

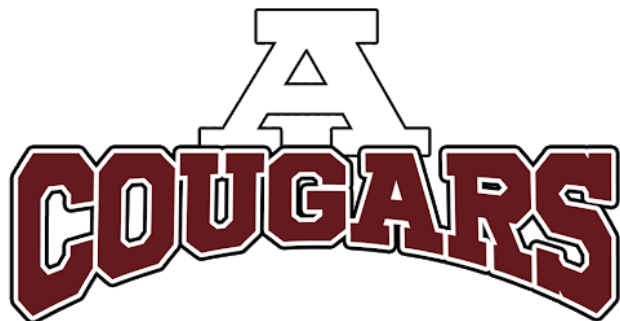
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Board Approved --- July 1, 2020

What Sets the Cougar Academy Apart?

The following distinguishing characteristics are the key areas that differentiate the Cougar Academy from other entities that provide virtual learning options:

- OUR certified teachers “drive” the instruction, as opposed to the online course provider/vendor.
- OUR teachers design activities to supplement and personalize online coursework.
- OUR students are offered a “place” to go in *their own* community for social, nutritional, counseling, and academic needs.
- OUR goal is meeting the needs of ALL students.
- OUR students may go “onsite” for instruction at the first sign that they are falling behind.
- OUR students have opportunities for extracurricular and co-curricular activities.
- OUR schools have proven results in providing equitable opportunities for students, high student achievement, course completion, and high graduation rates.



Terms You Should Know

Traditional - attending full course schedule in a brick and mortar school

Blended Learning - traditional instruction with integrated technology in a brick and mortar classroom

Virtual Instruction – delivery of instruction via the internet and electronic communication with the student, traditionally learning from home, while the teacher is in a remote location

Flex - combining some virtual courses with traditional courses taken on site

SIS – Student Information System, where all student data is collected and stored

LMS – Learning Management System - acts as the access point for lesson plans, virtual content, and instructional courses (Google Classroom)

CMS – Content Management System - provides online courses including virtual instruction
MobyMax - used in grades K-5 Edgenuity - used in grades 6-12

Credit Recovery – courses available to students only if they have not passed a course previously

Synchronous - online instruction that happens in real time - For example, the teachers and students interact in a specific virtual place, through a specific medium, at a specific time (video conferencing, live chatting, live-streaming lectures)

Asynchronous - occurs through online channels without real-time interaction; includes self-guided lesson modules, streaming video content, virtual libraries, posted lecture notes, and exchanges across discussion boards or social media platforms





Cougar Academy Program

Full Virtual - available for grades K-12:

The full online virtual program is available for any student in grades K-12. In this program, students will take their entire schedule online. Students enrolled in the Virtual Option should not be on campus, except for specified teacher office hours before or after school, or to meet with administration or counselors. The student completes all assignments in a virtual online setting. This setting allows the student to have a flexible and individualized schedule while being monitored and assisted by our certified teachers.



Flex Option:

The Flex option is a blended learning setting where the student will attend classes in both the traditional setting as well as online. An individualized plan will be designed to meet the needs of the student and the policies of Ada High School. A student's schedule would reflect some courses taken on site while other courses are completely virtual.

Students that do not pass a course in the Flex Option will not be allowed to take future courses in the Flex Option. Students may appeal this in writing, however the decision by the Cougar Academy team will be final.

Requirements of Virtual (K-12) or Flex Option:

- Attend orientation - provided by the CA Coordinator
- Complete CA contract
- Have a meeting with the CA Team: Coordinator, Teacher, and a parent/legal guardian
- Securing off site access to the internet is the responsibility of the family.
- Correspond weekly with CA, as specified
- Maintain on-pace / on-grade requirements
 - Failure to maintain pacing may result in required meeting with the CA Team and/or may result in change of placement
- Check school email daily
- Follow the Ada City School District's Handbook and Site Appropriate Handbook
- Avoid plagiarism
- Required to complete state testing onsite at Ada City Schools according to assigned schedule and location

Academic Progress

Academic Progress – this refers to the student’s current class average at any given time. Any assignment listed on the pacing guide that is not completed for the appropriate week will be recorded at 0%. However students can still complete these 0% assignments through the end of each semester.

Pacing Information

Each student receives a pacing guide for every course that they take. The CMS provides the student’s pacing status within the platform.

Information/Enrollment Steps

- 1) Complete the Pre-Enrollment Form for SY 2020-2021 found under Quick Links at www.adacougars.net.
- 2) Complete the Cougar Academy Information form also found under Quick Links at www.adacougars.net.
- 3) A Cougar Academy Team member will contact you to schedule an enrollment/orientation meeting to discuss options.

Withdrawal from Cougar Academy

Appropriate school personnel are authorized to withdraw a student who fails to maintain appropriate pace and academic progress or fails to meet the behavior standards listed within the grade level appropriate site handbook and/or the Ada City Schools Handbook.

Students that have failed a course within Edgenuity/MobyMax may not be allowed to re-enroll in Cougar Academy, based on their prior lack of success in the program.

Extra Curricular & Co-Curricular Opportunities

Students enrolled in Cougar Academy are permitted and encouraged to interact in extracurricular activities, such as prom, athletic events, clubs, dances, at their grade appropriate Ada City School Site. Juniors and Seniors in the Flex program can participate in co-curricular activities associated with the courses they take on campus such as Band, Athletics, and Performing Arts.

Formative and Summative Assessments

Benchmark assessments, such as chapter/unit/module tests, will need to be taken onsite with the Cougar Academy Coordinator to ensure integrity in testing. Contact the CA Coordinator to schedule a time to complete the assessments.

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and lunch is available for students enrolled in the Cougar Academy. Arrangements will be discussed during orientation. Let the CA Coordinator know if your student will participate in the child nutrition program.

Transportation

Transportation for child nutrition, benchmark assessments, and/or onsite courses (only for FLEX students) etc. is a responsibility of the family and not provided by Ada City Schools.



FAQ's

Is Cougar Academy the same as distance learning?

No. Distance learning was implemented in an effort to continue education in the wake of the global pandemic. Cougar Academy is a rigorous education solution that aligns with Oklahoma Academic Standards and offers a personalized, customized and self-paced curriculum that can replace the traditional, in-school learning environment for students who need a virtual option.

How is Cougar Academy different from traditional school?

Cougar Academy is designed to accommodate the growing needs of students and families. The program offers a personalized, flexible education that allows students to connect from anywhere the internet is available. Families can create their own learning schedules and parents can control their student's learning environment.

What challenges should I expect?

Students, with the assistance of the parent, must make a greater effort to stay organized, create a schedule, manage their time and work toward staying on pace to complete their coursework. As a parent/guardian, you will need to work closely with your child to help monitor their progress and provide at home support.

Why did Ada Schools create Cougar Academy?

To meet the ever-changing diverse needs of our students and provide educational flexibility to our students and parents.

Who can participate in Cougar Academy?

Any student in grades K-12 who is enrolled in Ada City Schools is eligible to participate in the program.

Who will teach each course?

Certified teachers provide support and work closely with the student and parent as needed. CA Team member(s) monitor student progress weekly through the reporting features of the content management system, google hang-out, text, email and phone.

What role does the parent play in Cougar Academy?

The parent serves as a **Learning Coach** who works with the online teacher to monitor progress on lessons.. A wide array of resources with practical advice, tips, and substantial support is always available for the parent.

The parent plays an important, supportive role to help the student stay on task and ensure follow-through on assignments. *However, high school students also are expected to start managing their own time and academic schedule.*

What are the expectations regarding state standardized tests?

ALL students in Ada City Schools must complete state standardized tests in grades 3-8 and grade 11. The Cougar Academy Coordinator will let you know where and when your child is scheduled to test. All state standardized tests will be given onsite.

Can my child participate in athletics, band, performing arts, and other co-curricular activities and/or extracurricular activities?

Yes. Participation in co-curricular activities is allowed when the student is enrolled in the corresponding class. Students also need to maintain eligibility according to OSSAA in order to participate in games or contests.

For all Cougar Academy students participation in extracurricular activities, such as attending athletic events/dances or joining clubs/organizations, is highly encouraged.



What if my child has special needs?

Learning in an online environment may not be an appropriate placement for every student. The Cougar Academy team will make a determination of what is best for each student before deciding to enroll a student in the Academy. The following evidence based practices are designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities and may be deemed appropriate under a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 Plan (health related), or English Language Academic Plan for English Language Learners.

- Provide explicit instruction.
 - Setting learning goals
 - Modeling with examples and non-examples
 - Providing multiple opportunities for practice.
- Model learning strategies
 - Teaching metacognitive strategies (self-monitoring, self-evaluation)
 - Strategy instruction
- Make instruction accessible
 - Multiple means of representation (video lectures, graphic displays, simulations, video captioning, read aloud supports, graphic organizers)
 - Multiple means of Expression
 - Multiple Means of Engagement
- Provide multiple exposures to vocabulary
- Activate background knowledge
- Use home language strategically

How Does Cougar Academy Benefit Our Students?

Students are able to work at their own pace with flexibility while continuing to be a part of the rich tradition of the Ada City School District. Students benefit from the many opportunities afforded to traditionally enrolled students including peer interaction and culminating in graduating from Ada High School.

What learning management system and content management systems will be used in Cougar Academy?

Learning Management System:

- Google Classroom

Content Management System:

- Grades K-5 MobyMax
- Grades 6-12 Edgenuity



Do I need to purchase a device?

The district can provide a device if needed.

Must I have internet access?

Yes. Reliable, high-speed internet access is necessary to access and complete virtual lessons, grades, and receive teacher support. If this is a barrier for your family, please let us know so we may explore resources.

What if we decide online learning is not the right fit?

We want to ensure students are placed in a successful learning environment and understand that online learning may not be for every student. A student can drop an online class within the first 10 days without any consequences. After the first 10 days, a student must remain until the end of the semester.

What criteria must a student/parent meet to be considered for Cougar Academy?

- Must Be Enrolled In Ada City Schools and complete the Cougar Academy form(s).
- Must agree to take responsibility for school property provided to the student.
- Must be willing to respond to communication from the school in a timely manner.
- Must agree to meet with teachers and/or counselors at times set by the school.
- Parent/Guardian must be available to be contacted throughout the day.
- Parents must agree to take an active role in holding the student accountable.

How do I enroll?

Complete the Pre-Enrollment Forms online to enroll in Ada City Schools. Complete the Cougar Academy Form online and a Cougar Academy representative will contact you to schedule an orientation/enrollment meeting.

Is there an attendance progress policy?

Yes. Attendance is met by maintaining academic progress. This includes staying on pace according to the teacher's guidelines and maintaining a semester average of 70 or above. Instructors will keep students and parents informed of progress by email, text, or phone.

If a student falls behind the pace, they may be required to change their setting and to spend a set amount of time each day completing assignments for that class. The student will be counted absent for failing to meet this requirement. Truancy court will be assigned for failing to meet attendance requirements.

The student may be denied the privilege of continuing in Cougar Academy if they fall too far behind the pace that is recommended. The student is encouraged to contact their instructor immediately if they are having problems with the content of the course.

The program recognizes student illness, death in the family, court appearances, and family emergencies may interrupt the daily schedule. However, regardless of the reason for an absence, the student will be expected to complete all assignments.

All students are required to complete state testing requirements. Failure to do so could mean the removal of the student from Cougar Academy.



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