Case Study
Arcanum Virtual Academy

imagine learning

Arcanum Virtual Academy Instructional Service Students Demonstrate Strong Performance on 2019 Ohio State Test
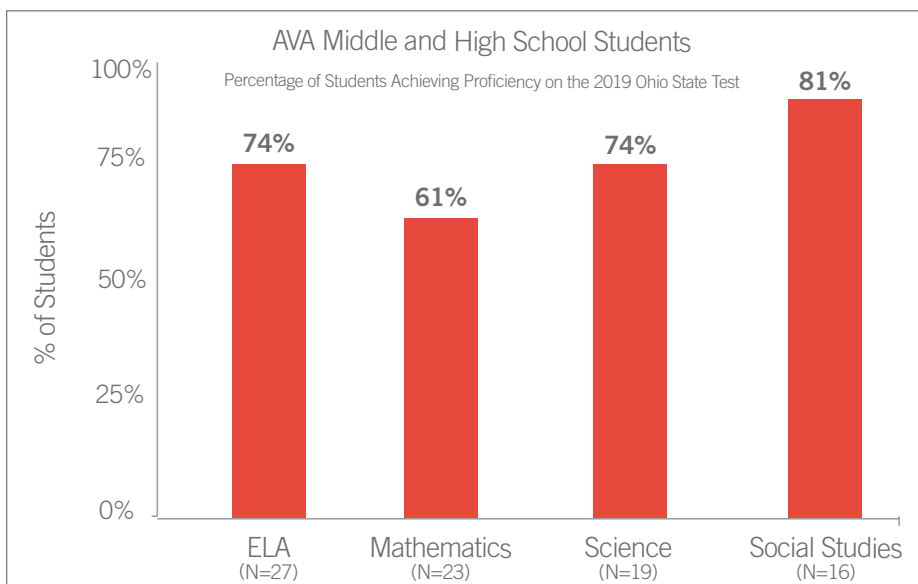
Overview

Located 30 miles north of Dayton, Ohio, Arcanum Virtual Academy (AVA) is a virtual education program that serves 65 students in grades 6–12 who want to learn in an alternative educational setting. The school uses Edgenuity's online courses for its core curriculum and students receive targeted, one-on-one support from Edgenuity's online teachers. Principal Jim Gray says, "Students learn in different ways and I wanted to create a school where students could interact with rigorous content in different ways. Edgenuity not only allows students to master challenging curricula, but the company also builds really positive and powerful relationships between teachers and students."

ARCANUM VIRTUAL ACADEMY DEMOGRAPHICS:			
White	94%	Asian	1%
Two or more races	3%	Pacific Islander	<1%
Hispanic	1%	Black	<1%

AVA looks and feels nothing like a typical middle or high school. Instead of traditional classrooms, students learn in a large room that resembles a cybercafé, with comfortable chairs, high-top tables, Chromebooks, and power outlets. When students arrive between 8 and 9 a.m., they work at their own pace on Edgenuity courses. "Students are empowered to take control over their own learning. If they need more time, they can get it. If they are mastering a topic quickly, they can go faster," Gray notes. As students progress through their courses, they receive e-mails and phone calls from Edgenuity's virtual instructors, who answer content-related questions and motivate students. After each hour of work, students take a 15-minute exercise break to rejuvenate and restore their energy. The academic day ends at 2:30 p.m., after which students can stay at school to participate in extracurricular activities or social events.

AVA Middle and High School Students
Percentage of Students Achieving Proficiency on the 2019 Ohio State Test

	ELA (N=27)	Mathematics (N=23)	Science (N=19)	Social Studies (N=16)
%	74%	61%	74%	81%

Recent state test results indicate that the school's innovative design is working. **Data show that the majority of AVA middle and high school students achieved proficiency on the 2019 Ohio State Tests** in English language arts (74 percent), mathematics (61 percent), science (74 percent), and social studies (81 percent). In addition, 100 percent of students passed the Ohio State Tests in 6th Grade English, 10th Grade English, 6th Grade Math, 7th Grade Math, and American History.

Edgenuity Research

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JIM GRAY, PRINCIPAL | ARCANUM VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Gray attributes students' academic success to the school's high degree of personalization. Before enrolling in the program, Gray meets with students and their families to determine whether the prospective student will be a good fit for the program. During the meeting, Gray reviews state testing requirements and school rules, and tailors students' academic targets based on skill, needs, and interests. Depending on a student's unique goals, course options might change. For example, some students might have pretesting enabled, where they take a quiz before each lesson. If they pass with greater than 70 percent, they can skip the material they have already mastered and focus on the content where they need additional instruction. These features enable students to work only on content in which they need additional instruction and practice.

In partnership with the Instructional Services team, the school also closely monitors student learning. Students are expected to complete at least 7 percent of overall activities each day in their online courses. AVA relies on Edgenuity Instructional Services teachers to use data from Edgenuity's Learning Management System to track how efficiently students are working in the program. Students are required to describe how they are meeting daily or weekly progress goals. To engage students, teachers regularly host pacing contests, where educators track how far ahead of pace students can get in all their courses. Students who master content and stay ahead of pace receive rewards. If a student falls behind, Gray meets with them and their parents in person to resolve the issue.

The relationship the student has with the virtual instructor is critical to keeping students motivated and on track. Edgenuity Instructional Services teachers closely observe student performance trends. When students struggle, Edgenuity instructors reset assignments, offer additional online tutoring sessions, and follow up with phone calls and video chats. They provide demonstrations and simulations and teach students multiple approaches to solving problems or tasks. Students are asked to document how they used new learning strategies that were taught to them. "Edgenuity instructors are critical to motivating and engaging students. They keep clear, open lines of communication with students. This establishes trust and accelerates learning," says Gray.

The program has been so popular that in summer 2019, there was already a wait list for the 2020–2021 school year.