

PRESS RELEASE

April 17, 2019

Huntley HS Ranked #1 in U.S. for Blended Learning by Study.com

HUNTLEY, IL – Huntley High School has been ranked as the #1 blended learning high school in the United States by Study.com. The ranking is continued recognition of the school’s blended learning program, which has been frequently cited as a national leader in redefining the traditional public school day.

Huntley High’s blended learning program launched in 2011 as a pilot with 100 students and three teachers. It has since grown to include more than two-thirds of the student body, with more than 2,100 students taking at least one of the school’s 60 blended courses. More than 70 teachers teach blended courses, offered across all academic departments.

“This is a tremendous honor and a true reflection of both the outstanding work our staff has put in over the past several years and the caliber of our students,” said Dr. Scott Rowe, superintendent of Huntley Community School District 158. “Our successes have shown that it’s not only possible but imperative for schools to evolve in how we educate students.”

Blended learning, broadly, combines traditional classroom instruction with online coursework. The term encompasses a variety of instructional models in use at schools across the country. At HHS, the blended learning program uses a distinctive structure designed in-house by existing staff with virtually no capital costs. In it, courses typically meet as a whole two or three days a week, with the remaining days offering students flexibility in deciding how best to use their time, from working online, meeting individually or in small groups with the teacher, working ahead or catching up in that or other courses, or even leaving campus or napping.

This flexible model better accommodates individual learner needs than traditional whole-class instruction. Students who need additional individualized attention from the teacher can get it on days when the whole class is not meeting. Students who have already mastered course material are empowered to use otherwise unproductive class time for a different purpose. A recent study conducted by Hanover Research at HHS found:

- 88% of HHS students surveyed were mostly or completely satisfied with the blended learning experience at HHS
- 89% of students surveyed believe blended classes have had a positive or very positive effect on self-discipline
- 91% of students surveyed believe blended classes have had a positive or very positive effect on time management
- 93% of students surveyed indicated that they have more free time when taking blended classes vs. only taking traditional classes

The flexibility offered by breaking down the walls of the traditional school day has enabled the school to offer additional instructional innovations.

Huntley 158 was selected as one of 10 Illinois school districts to participate in the state's first competency-based education (CBE) pilot. Launched in fall 2018, Huntley High's Vanguard Vision CBE program has served 120 students, offering four core courses in a competency-based format.

In addition, HHS received national attention for launching its one-of-a-kind Youth Medical Residency program in partnership with Northwestern Medicine. In the blended class, 30 HHS seniors in the school's Medical Academy spend at least 2.5 hours a week at Northwestern's state-of-the-art Huntley Hospital working side-by-side with physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals from all departments.

To learn more, visit <http://www.district158.org/about/innovations/>.

View the full list of the top 50 blended high schools at <https://study.com/academy/popular/top-50-blended-learning-high-schools.html>.

About Study.com

Study.com is an online education platform that helps learners of all ages excel academically and close skills gaps. From test prep and homework help to earning low-cost college credit and developing workplace skills, Study.com's online courses, short animated video lessons and study tools have made learning simple for over 30 million students, teachers and working professionals. Study.com was founded in 2002 and is a privately-held company located in Mountain View, Calif.

#

Contact:

Dan Armstrong

o: (847) 659-6105

c: (224) 239-7038

darmstrong@district158.org