

IGNITE Online and Personalized Learning 2026-2027 Student and Parent Handbook

Mission Statement

The Shenandoah Community School District, in partnership with families and the community, will provide each student an educational environment that maximizes his or her potential to become responsible, successful citizens and lifelong learners in an ever-changing world.

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Shenandoah Schools, in partnership with the community that we provide:

- Students have the tools to become responsible, successful citizens and lifelong learners in an ever-changing world.
- A safe and caring environment that ensures the dignity of all.
- Opportunities that stretch student and staff capabilities.
- School staff that are focused and visionary, collaborative, and empowered to make knowledgeable decisions.

Equity Statement

It is the policy of the district not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the District's Equity Coordinator, Aaron Burdorf, Equity Coordinator. Shenandoah CSD, 304 W. Nishna Rd., Shenandoah, IA 51601. Phone 712-246-1581 Email burdorfa@shencsd.com.

Program Description

The IGNITE program will develop a learning environment that creates the context where students will be engaged in a continuum of service, which could include one or more of the following:

- online learning,
- blending learning,
- project-based learning,
- work-based learning, internships, and/or apprenticeships.

IGNITE will provide services to students who attend Shenandoah CSD on campus or remotely, who are dual enrolled homeschool students, or are open enrolled. The program's structure will allow students to maximize their learning potential using a personalized education plan that includes access to core instruction through traditional or online learning, career technical education programs, or other specialized teaching and learning.

Students are expected to adhere to the Shenandoah CSD student handbook, code of conduct, all board policies and procedures, and applicable building-level student handbooks.

IGNITE may not be appropriate for all families. Enrollment in IGNITE is a team decision consisting of student, parent/guardian, and IGNITE administration. An In-Take and Exit meeting will be held for each applicant. All students and parents are required to submit the IGNITE agreements. The agreements outline the expectations necessary for a successful IGNITE learning experience.

IGNITE is a full-year program. Students are expected to participate for the entire school year. Students may be removed from the IGNITE program under unique circumstances with the consent of the program administrator.

Activities

Students will be encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs, and school-sponsored activities as long as they meet the eligibility requirements required of all students. Resident students may participate in an unlimited number of Shenandoah Activities. Students who are open enrolled into the IGNITE program may participate in two resident district activities in their resident district. Additional activities are allowed at the discretion of the resident district. Students wanting to participate in home district activities need to contact IGNITE Administration. The IGNITE Administration will contact the K-12 Activities Director to participate in SHS district activities.

Attendance & the School Calendar

Students participating in the IGNITE program will follow the District's calendar and will adhere to attendance laws per Iowa Code. This means:

- Each day school is in session in the District, students will be expected to make academic progress to be counted as present.
- Weekly progress attendance will be recorded in the school information system.
- Students who fail to meet attendance requirements will be counted absent. Parents/Guardians can expect that attendance letters and truancy law will be followed according to the District's policy.
- Parents/guardians of students who are ill or unable to participate must communicate with the IGNITE Administration to have legitimate absences excused.
- As with students in traditional school settings, parents/guardians of students participating in the IGNITE program are responsible for their student's attendance per Iowa Code.
- Students Open Enrollment agreements may be terminated if students fail to attend their virtual courses.

The school district will monitor student attendance and progress, provide support, and communicate concerns. It is the family's responsibility to make sure a student is attending regularly and making adequate academic progress as defined by district expectations. Anytime students, parents/guardians, teachers, or administrators are concerned about a student's attendance, they are encouraged to contact the appropriate party.

Co-curricular Activities

Students enrolled in the IGNITE program may participate in band, choir, and virtual music lessons. Students will coordinate their involvement with the IGNITE Administration to schedule weekly lessons.

Communication Procedures

Communication about the IGNITE program will be shared via email through Parent Square and posted on the Shenandoah CSD Website www.shencsd.com. IGNITE Administration will communicate to families via email and with students via a school provided email address and Zoom/GoogleMeet.

Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to communicate with their assigned IGNITE Administration or Student Support Person via email or phone as the first line of contact with a question or concern about the program.

Students' first point of contact is their classroom instructor; Second point of contact is the student's student support person; Third point would be the IGNITE administrator.

When school is in full session, you can anticipate a response to your question or concern within 24 hours. It will take longer for staff to respond on days when school is not in session, on weekends, or on a noted holiday. You can reasonably expect a response the next day school is in session.

Instructors, student supports, or IGNITE Administration will connect with families at least once per week through announcements or updates. Additional scheduled office hours will be available for feedback and assistance.

Parents/guardians will have access to PowerSchool for grade information. Grades will be updated weekly.

Students who desire to take District courses onsite in addition to the Edgenuity courses may do so with the consent of the IGNITE Administration.

Concurrent Credit

High school students may enroll in dual credit/enrollment courses offered through Iowa Western Community College, Tarkio Tech or other secondary education programs. However, these courses are controlled by the college, and students must meet all expectations for the course in order to participate and are outside of the IGNITE program.

This means if the college determines the courses will be instructed in the face-to-face format, the student must attend class face-to-face with the assigned instructor and meet all expectations to earn high school and college credit.

All course questions will be directed to the college instructor, not the IGNITE staff.

Course Delivery

IGNITE courses are available through Edgenuity and IGNITE Staff curriculum through Canvas platform approved through the Iowa Department of Education. Additionally, students will have access to licensed teachers to provide face-to-face online instruction and academic support.

Online Registration Training

Students and parents/guardians will complete this training annually before they start online classes. This training will explain how to use the online programs and provide resources for the students they can access.

Course Offerings

Course offerings for each grade level can be found in the appendix of this handbook.

Exceptional Students

Special Education

Students with an Individualized Education Plan may elect to participate in the IGNITE program. An IEP meeting is necessary to set up Special Education services during virtual learning. The IEP team will determine the appropriate changes needed to the current IEP based on the individual student's online learning environment. The administration team will determine if IGNITE has the capability of providing adequate IEP services through IGNITE.

When a student applies for open enrollment into IGNITE there will be the following meetings held:

1. Per the Open Enrollment requirements - Receiving and Resident district Superintendent (or designee) and the AEA representative to agree on the open enrollment acceptance.
2. If a student is accepted into IGNITE an intake meeting with the following personnel to discuss the IEP services and how they will continue. IGNITE and Resident district Administration, IGNITE Special Education Teacher, Student, Parents/Guardian.
3. If after the student gets settled in IGNITE online and there needs to be amendments to the IEP an IEP meeting will be held.

Section 504 Plans

Students with a Section 504 Plan may elect to participate in IGNITE. Depending on the individual needs of the student, a meeting may be necessary.

English Learners

English Learners may elect to participate in IGNITE. A licensed EL teacher will assess the student's English language proficiency to determine the instructional support necessary for the student to successfully participate in the program.

Talented and Gifted (TAG)

TAG students may elect to participate in IGNITE. The student and family will work with the TAG teacher to extend their

education for appropriate challenge and growth.

Grading/Assessment

Student's assignments, assessments, and grades will be reported using PowerSchool. The District's standard grading and reporting protocols will be used to assign final grades. General feedback on assignments may come in the form of email, face-to-face, or virtual conferencing. IGNITE will use the grade scale attached.

Grade-Level Advancement

Students must meet all established requirements to advance to the next grade level or graduate with a Shenandoah CSD diploma.

High School Grade Point Average (GPA)

All semester grades will be used to calculate students' GPA. Transcripts will be issued in the same manner as all other students participating in the face-to-face school option.

Class rank will be calculated for each grade level.

Proctoring of Assessments

Some testing may only be available in the school building with the student's teacher. It is the family's responsibility to ensure that students are transported to and from the testing site according to the testing schedule.

Requirements for State Testing

All students will be required to participate in all assessments required by the State of Iowa. Assessments may be in person or virtually depending on the guidelines set by the state of Iowa or district.

State Required Intervention and Progress Monitoring

Students in grades K through 5 that are identified for intervention and progress monitoring through the FAST screening or iReady process are required by the state to participate in interventions and progress monitoring. These required times will be scheduled by the IGNITE Administration or K-5 instructor.

Students in grades 6-12 will take the iReady assessments fall, winter and spring. These assessments can be taken at home or in person.

Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) Testing

ISASP testing is the federal accountability test under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and must be completed by all students in grades 3 to 11 in a face-to-face or virtual environment proctored by an Iowa licensed teacher.

IGNITE Administration will provide information about testing prior to the testing window during the spring semester.

Other Testing

All other mandated testing is required on an individual basis. If your student is required to participate, information will be provided from the IGNITE Administration.

Work based Learning

Students in grades 9-12 will take a semester course each year that is based on work, college and life readiness. This course will have opportunities for job shadowing, work experience, internships, apprenticeships, college courses, and post-secondary education. Students that participate in work experience will be required to work 60 hours per credit hour. Credit will be available year-round for work base learning. These courses are required for graduation.

CPR

Students are required to complete a CPR course. If students want to be certified they will be responsible for the cost of

certification.

Community Service

A requirement of all IGNITE students is to complete 20 hours of community service. Students can complete up to 5 community service hours each year in high school. There will be a form students will need to complete for all hours with a signature of whom they completed the service. Community service hours cannot be completed for family members.

Materials

All students will be issued a district-owned device and must complete user agreements prior to checkout. Students will be issued any necessary textbooks as needed by the student's course schedule. Textbook and technology fees will be assessed for students attending IGNITE. Fee waivers are available.

Families must provide a stable and reliable internet connection in order to participate in online or remote learning.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

MTSS is a process that will be used to identify academic support for each student to meet their individualized learning needs. Targeted interventions will be provided, and progress monitoring will occur to help all students reach high levels of proficiency. There are three levels of instruction and support that include universal, target, and intensive levels of instruction and support that will be used to meet student needs. Examples of this may include frequency of contact from administration, access to more time with content specialists, and accommodations based on individual student needs.

Orientation

The IGNITE program will hold an orientation for students in August and/or at the student's entry point into the program. It is expected that each family and student will attend the virtual or in person orientation. Students who participate in on campus learning services will be invited to visit the appropriate school building, meet the staff, and other students in the program.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Families will have the opportunity to engage in parent/teacher conferences virtually or in person with the student's IGNITE instructors twice a year. Other meetings may be arranged as needed.

Personalized Learning Plan

Each student participating in the IGNITE program will have a personalized learning plan tailored to meet their individual learning needs. This plan will include student goals, core requirements, electives, and specified accommodations for students who have an IEP, 504 Plan, TAG Acceleration Plan, and/or EL learning needs. Students in grades 8 through 12 will also have a 4-year learning plan for academics and career planning course work with the school counselor/administrator.

Policies

The IGNITE program is part of the Shenandoah Community School District and will adhere to the Board of Education policies. The district will enforce bullying, harassment, and discrimination based on district policy. This also includes incidents of cyberbullying. These policies can be found at www.shencsd.com.

Right to Privacy Policy

Shenandoah CSD and the IGNITE program value and protect student's right to privacy by following the guidelines outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (**FERPA**).

Program Staff

Students participating in online coursework will use the Egenuity learning platform. The students will be assigned a Remote Learning Coordinator who will monitor their progress and serve as a liaison between the student and teacher of record. Core Content Specialists will be able to serve as teacher of record or a resource to students who need additional instructional support or intervention.

Role	Name
Administration (K-12)	Denise Green
School Counselor & FLEX Ed	Brenda Wood
Student Support K-5th Grades 6-8th Grades 9-10th Grades 11-12th Grades	See website for list
K-5th Core Teacher	Julie Murren
MS Flex Teacher	Alisa Andrew
Core Teachers	See staff listing on website
English Learners	Jenna Johnson
Special Education	To Be Assigned from District Special Education Staff
Multioccupations Coordinator	Sarah F Martin/Denise Green
TAG	Brett Roberts
Interpreter	Will be provided if needed.
Technology Support	Richard Morgan Fine

Student Eligibility

Students are eligible to enroll in courses based upon academic appropriateness as determined by the student, parent/guardian, school counselor, school administrator, and program administrator. Students may be placed in courses to meet graduation/promotion requirements, acceleration needs, and/or remediation needs. Students must meet prerequisites for course enrollment. Students and families are encouraged to work with their school counselor to determine their academic plans and their eligibility for educational programs.

Students will need to complete course requirements within the semester and meet attendance guidelines to continue in the program. Failure to make adequate progress in work completion, participation, attendance and credit attainment may result in dismissal from the program.

Maximum enrollment in the IGNITE program is an administrative decision.

Student Registration

- Students must be registered with Shenandoah CSD using the online registration system.
- Students requesting transfer to IGNITE from a school within the district will notify the building principal or IGNITE administrator.

- Intake meeting and orientation participation is required.
- Parent/guardian permission and agreements are required.

GPA Points	Letter Grade	Percentage Range
4.0	A	93-100
3.7	A-	90-92
3.3	B+	87-89
3.0	B	83-86
2.7	B-	80-82
2.3	C+	77-79
2.0	C	73-76
1.7	C-	70-72
1.3	D+	67-69
1	D	63-66
.7	D-	60-62
0	F	0-59
P	Passing	
W	Withdraw	
NC	No Credit	