

Online Algebra I

Participating Districts (5)

St. Regis

Scobey

Stanford

Harlem

Hellgate Elementary

Students enrolled (13)

Andrew Hamann

Samantha Pennington

Christine Dupic

A.J. Polzin

Tyrell Hofer

Shannon Hannifin

Maggie Jeakins-Cooley

Sarah Lidstrom

Cody Moore

Kiley Munsey

Ken Nau

Steven Rehbein

Taylor Simkins

I agree with your ideas about your evaluation of the online courses as it pertains to student success. The online algebra I course has been both rewarding and frustrating as a regular classroom can be. My most successful students come from the middle school level. I have a group of 7th grade students and an eighth grade student that are doing incredible. I think there is a very good reason for their success. First the students were offered an opportunity for enrichment/acceleration that normally their schools could not provide. I also believe that the status of being invited to be a member of an advanced group provided great incentive to succeed. All of my middle school students are achieving at the highest level in a high school level class. Another reason for their success is the presence of a strong onsite coordinator/support person that maintains supervision, support and interest in each student's progress and coursework. It is quite incredible and rewarding to experience students learning using their own self-initiative. I believe that through this course students have learned to take control of their learning and in turn made a great leap toward becoming an independent learner which is an admirable goal for any school to strive toward.

My experience with high school students has been much more frustrating. I do have a couple of high school students succeeding but the majority has either dropped or is struggling. Their struggle lies mostly in poor work ethic which includes problems with procrastination, organization, communication, poor skills etc... I also believe that improper placement has hampered some of the unsuccessful students. From some of my conversations with the onsite coordinator the online course was offered as a last resort to complete requirements toward graduation. Obviously these students had difficulty with school in the past so success in the online course was not likely but worth a try. I'm not sure why these schools enrolled weak students in an online course especially with little or

no support from the onsite coordinator or their school. Schools need to be more responsible and responsive to students enrolled in an online course for both technology and curriculum related questions. It is an in-service to the students to sign them up in September and to check back with them in June.

I look forward to the opportunity to teach an online course again. I believe that we have just scratched the surface on the potential of online learning. During the year I feel I've developed a strong framework to expand upon. Additional training/time working with different technology applications, blackboard (collaboration), and reflecting and fine tuning what we've done this year are some areas that I'd like to visit. Let me know if you need other information or have additional questions.