

INFINITY ONLINE

Spring 2018

- Spring 2018 semester ends Friday, May 18th, 2018.
- Registration for Summer 2018, Fall 2018, and Spring 2019 is now Open!! To register: <http://www.mninfinitly.org/enroll-now>
- New course for 2018-2019: American Sign Language!
- 2018-2019 Course Offerings: <http://www.mninfinitly.org/course-offerings>
- CIS Course Offerings:
Full-Year: Statistics and Chemistry
- **Fall:** Anthropology, Cultural Geography, Composition I, and Human Behavior & Development
- **Spring:** The American Economy, Composition II, Art Appreciation, Medical Terminology, and Psychology
- To see CIS registration details and eligibility requirements, please visit: <http://www.mninfinitly.org/course-offerings/college-credit-opportunities>

NEWSLETTER

Director's Note

Jo McClure

Did you know.....

- 23 states now have state-run online schools
- 13 states, including Minnesota, have specific policies regarding course providers, access, and funding for online programming
- In Minnesota there were 33 approved online learning public school providers that represent a mix of consortia, regional service districts, charter school programs, and district programs serving students statewide.
- Overall growth in online learning is around 6% nationwide; increasing for the fourteenth straight year.
- Nationwide, 30% of higher education students are taking online coursework.
- In Minnesota, 42.9% of higher education students were taking at least one online course; higher than the national average.

I wanted to share these statistics to highlight the growing trend students will encounter as they pursue post-secondary opportunities.

Over 14 years ago, visionary leaders in our districts wanted to develop a way for students to start "learning how to learn online" while still having the traditional high school support system that many students still need. And thus, Infinity Online was born!

Infinity Online monitors student progress on a weekly basis, identifying students that may need assistance, guidance or intervention. We work directly with the local school counselor, wherever possible, to review with students their current progress, issues with pace and completion, barriers to success, and develop a path to success.

I believe it is this collaborative approach that helps elevate student success rates to 90% while preparing students for learning beyond their high school years.

Thank you to our school partners for all you do for your students and in support of the Infinity Online program!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jenna R. - Sauk Centre

What courses are you taking with INFINITY Online? I am taking Medical Terminology (CIS).

Why are you taking this class online?

I'm taking this class online because my school doesn't offer it, and it is a great opportunity to complete a college credit in high school. It is also a course that interests me because I intend to go into a health care profession.

How did you find out about your online options? My school counselor gives us the possible online classes during class registration.

What is your favorite thing about your online class? My favorite part about my online class is that I can complete the course at my own pace.

What has surprised you most about taking an online class? What surprised me most is how convenient online courses are. I can do my assignments anywhere, as long as I have a computer.

What is one thing you would want prospective students to know about INFINITY Online? I would like them to know that online courses are a great option if their school doesn't offer certain classes.



like them to know

Jamie T. – Greenway



What courses are you taking with INFINITY Online? Young Adult Literature and CIS Statistics

Why are you taking this class online? Both classes are not offered at my school. Also, I am taking statistics because I know it will be very useful for my career plan. I'm taking Young Adult Literature because it is an enjoyable English class.

How did you find out about your online options? I found out about online classes from doing my own research on the site and then talking to my counselor. I took my first Infinity online class in 9th grade. The class was Money Management which I highly recommend all students take.

What is your favorite thing about your online class? I can work on my online classes at any time I want, whether it is in school or out of school. I also feel like I'm learning a lot of valuable things from these two classes, which is not always the case with many of my classes.

What has surprised you most about taking an online class? There is more communication with the teachers than I expected there would be. I thought I wouldn't really get to talk to my teachers if I had

questions.

What is one thing you would want prospective students to know about INFINITY Online? Online classes are more flexible than regular classes. This means you can work at your own pace as long as you get assignments, quizzes, discussions, and test done by the due date.

Noah S. - Brainerd

What courses are you taking with INFINITY Online? I am currently taking American History through INFINITY online.

Why are you taking this class online? I am taking this class because it will prepare me for college online courses.

How did you find out about your online options? I found out about this course from my friend who took all online last year.

What is your favorite thing about your online class? My favorite thing about taking this online class is how much my typing skills have improved over this year.



The Lighthouse Project: This semester, Noah experienced the loss of a close friend. While he could be somewhat flexible with his online course, he spent time creating a fundraiser to raise suicide awareness that has developed into a non-profit to honor his friend.

"I thought to myself, how can I make a difference in our community? The Lighthouse Project started out as Smiles for Jake. We changed the name because we wanted to be inclusive to everyone. The lighthouse is a light shining in the darkness and when people are lost they look to the lighthouse for guidance and hope. The first \$75,000 we raise will go towards voluntary mental health screenings in high schools and middle schools in our area"
– Noah S.

Summer School Opportunities

Summer Session I .5 Credit Courses

Monday, June 11, 2018 - Friday, July 27, 2018

- Algebra II A or B
- Biology A or B
- Geometry A or B
- U.S. History I or II
- English I A or B
- English II A or B
- Health & Wellness
- Personal Fitness

Summer Session II - 1.0 Credit Courses

Monday, June 11, 2018 - Friday, August 31, 2018

Courses offered for summer school include:

- Algebra II A & B
- Geometry A & B
- English I A & B
- English II A & B
- Biology A & B

2018-2019 CALENDAR

Fall 2018

Start: 9/10/18

Drop Date: 9/24/18

Midsemester: 11/2/18

Winter Break: 12/17/18-1/1/19

End: 1/11/19

Spring 2019

Start: 1/21/19

Drop Date: 2/4/19

Midsemester: 3/15/19

Spring Break: 3/18/19 – 3/22/19

End: 5/17/19

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Tammy Dowling

What course do you teach for Infinity Online? Young Adult Literature

How long have you been teaching with Infinity? This is my second year.

What is your favorite thing about teaching online? I enjoy getting to know students from other areas and hearing what they have to say about the literature.

What has surprised you most about teaching online? I have been pleasantly surprised by how easy it is to get to know students individually in an online environment.

What one thing would you want prospective students to know about Infinity Online? You get out of the online experience what you are willing to put into it. If you engage with the materials and your classmates, you will have a positive learning experience and help make it enjoyable for others as well. Discussions and other group activities are more rewarding when you invest in the class.

Rich McLain

What course do you teach for Infinity Online? I teach the US History I and II Courses.

How long have you been teaching with Infinity? I have been with Infinity Online for 3 years now.

What is your favorite thing about teaching online? I enjoy the interactions with the students. I also enjoy seeing students succeed in a different format. The freedom of the Internet has really opened the classroom to more students.

What has surprised you most about teaching online? The time I have had to commit to it has increased over the years. I have found that the more I teach for Infinity, the more I like it. When I enjoy doing something, I spend more time with it. I have really taken ownership of the classes.

What one thing would you want prospective students to know about Infinity Online? Any prospective student should be aware that this is a commitment to learning. It is not an easy fix for school. It requires time and effort to succeed in this format. Time management skills are of the utmost importance for success.



DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Crosby - Ironton



How many students Grades 9-12? 345 Students

How many students are taking a class through INFINITY this year? 6% of students took an online course this year. Fall 2017- 12 Students; Spring 2018 - 8 Students.

What is the successful completion rate of students taking online courses? A 90% completion rate so far this year.

How do students find out about INFINITY Online courses as an option? Registration presentation and guide.

Who is the “online coordinator” in your District, as specified in the OLL Statute? Counselor, Nickie Doyle

How do you schedule students into online courses? Students meet with the school counselor to help with the registration of online classes and complete the needed forms. Students in 9th and 10th grade are scheduled into a Study Hall during their online class time. 11th and 12th graders can work wherever they choose, unless they are struggling in the online class. If that is the case, they are also assigned a Study Hall.

MEMBER DISTRICTS

ISD 1 – AITKIN

ISD 745 – ALBANY

ISD 91 – BARNUM

ISD 181- BRAINERD

ISD 911 – CAMBRIDGE ISANTI

ISD 182 – CROSBY-IRONTON

ISD 317 – DEER RIVER

ISD 656 - FARIBAULT

ISD 656 – FLOODWOOD

ISD 318 – GRAND RAPIDS

ISD 316 – GREENWAY

ISD 2 – HILL CITY

ISD 738 – HOLDINGFORD

ISD 473 – ISLE

ISD 2171 – KITSON

ISD 441 – MARSHALL COUNTY CENTRAL

ISD 4 – MCGREGOR

ISD 91 – MOOSE LAKE

ISD 319 - NASHWAUK

ISD 345 – NEW LONDON SPICER

ISD 118 – NORTHLAND COMMUNITY

ISD 480 – ONAMIA

ISD 2174 – PINE RIVER BACKUS

ISD139 – RUSH CITY

ISD 743 – SAUK CENTRE

ISD 363 - SOUTH KOOCHICHING

ISD 742 - ST. CLOUD