

# Rockwell Charter High School

## Proposal to be approved for Online

Rockwell Charter High School is requesting from the State Charter School Board to be approved to add an online/distance component.

### Our Why?

Rockwell currently has a low enrollment due to various factors. In 2019-2020, a new high school opened in our community. Rockwell didn't lose students to go to the new high school. Instead, we didn't gain the amount of students we need to replace the students who graduated. Our retention rate has remained consistent over the years.

Academic Year	Retention Rate
2018	83.2%
2019	85.4%
2020	82.1%
2021	80.5%

In this same academic year, COVID hit. This caused us to lose students whose parents felt safer homeschooling their students during this hard time. Because of these two factors, we are slowly growing back to where we were before, which was 434.

Rockwell did not complete the necessary steps and standards to "Receive an Amendment to Continue a Distance Program." We participated with students online for the 2019-2020 school year. Unfortunately, we had to set it up in a way that our teachers were running double the classes. They had their 7 to 8 classes on campus and then had the same classes online. This way was not effective...but was the only way with the budget that we had. For the 2020-2021 school year, it was decided that we would not require teachers to have their classes online, due to overwhelming them the year before. Also, a few teachers mentioned to the director that they would not be able to continue to teach if that was the same standard for the 2020-2021 school year.

We are requesting to add the online component for Rockwell to help us with:

- Supporting our students who want and/or need to enter the workforce as a junior or senior. Allowing them to work and do school online will give them the support to graduate versus feeling like they need to drop out. (At least 20% of our school is considered low income and many students start working to contribute to their families.)
- Adding to our enrollment numbers in a quicker way. There is a need for an online school that can be community based, because Rockwell is wanting our online students to come and engage in elective courses and extracurricular activities.

### What will it look like?

Part-time licensed teachers and a part time licensed counselor will be hired to run the online classes and maintain contact with our students.

Students will have the options to the amount of classes they take online. They can focus 100% online to splitting time online and attending in person.

Our MLS will be CANVAS. CANVAS has already been used with our on-site teachers at Rockwell for more than 3 years.

Each student will be able to:

- (1) Accelerate Credit Accrual
  - (a) Each course will allow students to take a Pre-test covering the content for each unit. If a student tests above 80%, this will unlock the end of the unit test for students to take. If they pass the end of the unit test with 80% or higher, then they have completed the unit and will be able to move onto the next unit. If they score less than 80%, they will be required to complete the unit.
- (2) Participate in courses that
  - (a) Require daily discussions on discussion threads
  - (b) Instruct through pre-recorded video (ranging 20 to 30 min)
  - (c) Demonstrate knowledge through activities and/or assignments
- (3) Show Mastery
  - (a) If a student is not able to show mastery of the content due to lack of engagement (less than 3 to 4 days of logging on and participating) or low grades, an intervention will be in place.
    - (i) Intervention:
      - 1) Teacher will reach out to the student in question to set up a tutoring time.
      - 2) In person or Zoom personal tutoring with teacher
- (4) Actively see their growth in English and Math through iXL.
  - (a) Students will participate in quarterly diagnostic tests in Math and English to determine growth and support weaknesses

### **Timeline for Rockwell's courses**

- Many of Rockwell's courses have been developed over the last two years and just need refinement to move to an online specific course.
- By August 1, 2022
  - All Semester 1 High School Core classes ready to enroll students for the August 16, 2022 start of school
    - English (9th to 12th grade)
    - History (Geography, World Civ, US History, US Gov)
    - Math (Secondary Math 1, 2, & 3)
    - Science (Earth Science, Biology, and 2 semester elective classes)
  - Mentoring: A Rockwell specific class that lets us focus on SEL, life skills, study skills, and more. It provides the students with a teacher who gets to know them differently than when they are in their subject teacher. The online mentor teacher would be meeting with the student weekly face to face (in person or Zoom).
- By Oct 2022
  - All Semester 2 High School core classes ready
- By August 1, 2023
  - Other classes to have online
    - Financial Literacy
    - Computer Science
    - PE courses

- Other History and Science electives
- CTE Courses
- Art Courses