

FAQ

Question: What will Virtual OSTC look like?

Answer: Typically, technical and career ready skills are taught and practiced in our hands on labs **and** in a more traditional classroom setting. In other words, OSTC classes do have a more academic component to them. While we and other districts are waiting to proceed with in person learning, our OSTC staff will be emphasizing the classroom setting part of our curriculum more heavily until we go back to the buildings. However, staff will be planning live virtual and recorded demonstrations in their lab areas periodically as applicable to each class curriculum. The full 1.5 credits for each student's one class with us will still be earned as long as they are engaged and successful, no different than with the 3-4 classes they have at their other high school. Our combination of live virtual lessons, recorded lessons/demonstrations, and drop in virtual office hours/virtual tutoring sessions will be designed to give students flexibility with how and when they learn with us.

Question: Is OSTC online learning still worth it compared to taking 3 alternative classes at my high school?

Answer: Because students take one course at OSTC, worth 1.5 credits per semester, each student is able to focus and engage on **ONE area of passion**, rather than 3 random electives. Students will be **viewing technical demonstrations** by staff, business or college partners. They may be asked to submit videos of themselves demonstrating technical competency applicable to certain programs. We are attempting to enhance a “at home” hands on component. Lab learning items needed for instruction **may be** provided for in home study (where possible and safety permits)- such as pH balance water test kits, stethoscopes, CAD software links, other software links, etc. As of now, **Work Based Learning** is still available for students meeting the criteria. Students will work on **critical employability skills** needed in college and career environments, such as Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, Positive Personal Brand –among others. All students will do career development activities and have access to one on one career counseling and mapping with our Student Support Team. All students will have the opportunity to earn technical certification and promote their learning through the creation of a Professional Portfolio with a resume. We plan on sharing more as the year progresses.

Question: Please remind me of how OSTC fits into my child’s schedule regarding how they earn credit?

Answer: The single class we offer to each student is worth 1.5 credits per semester at OSTC, the equivalent of taking three additional elective classes at the high school. To earn those 1.5 credits with us, students need to show proficiency in technical skills and career readiness skills. Students typically have a combination of Math, Science, English, Social Studies, etc. at their high school for half the day, while taking our **one** class for 2.5 hours daily. Students not participating in OSTC typically take 6-7 classes at the high school, while OSTC students typically take 3-4 at the high school and 1 with us.

Question: How will the OSTC schedule fit with my high school schedule and what if there are conflicts?

Answer: We recognize that there may be conflicts with district academic content delivery. OSTC instructors will be as flexible as possible in allowing students time to access OSTC curriculum content. Our instructors will be in the building M,T, Th, F conducting lessons virtually, accessing labs, demonstrations, technology in order to provide a rich, experiential learning opportunity for students. Instructors will be recording and posting lessons, so that students with conflicting schedules will have flexibility to access them.

Question: When you return to face-to-face learning, will you continue to offer a virtual option for students?

Answer: At this time we are not planning to continue the virtual platform once we move back to face-to-face learning.

Question: When returning to face-to-face learning what COVID-19 Safety Protocols will be in place?

Answer: Based on the phase (4, 5, or 6) the State of Michigan is in, we will implement all of the Required and most of the strongly recommended protocols outlined in the [Michigan Return to School Roadmap](#).