MountieAcademy.org
Online Learning

PERSONAL • FLEXIBLE • RIGOROUS • HASSLE FREE

South Williamsport Area School District

Cyber Enrollment Guide

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Before Enrollment

The process of enrollment in Mountie Academy begins at home between a student and their parents / guardians. Moving from in-person to cyber learning is a significant educational decision that will require different skills from the student like increased self-discipline to keep pace with assignments and from families to provide a learning space at home. It is important for families to discuss the reasons behind this choice, the student's ability, and the impact on the family.

Although on-line learning offers many opportunities, it is not an effective means to escape school-based problems. If your student is experiencing a school-based problem, please work directly with your school counselor on possible solutions other than online learning.

We want all students to find success and we believe that the best option begins in school with teachers and peers. However, for some students in certain situations or with certain goals, on-line learning makes more sense. Talk it over and then schedule a meeting with your student's school counselor.

Initial Enrollment

Mountie Academy is a privilege offered to students when it aligns with their educational goals. As a privilege it comes with clear expectations to maintain placement. Initial enrollment in Mountie Academy requires all of the following items below. Once the criteria below are met, the student is placed in Mountie Academy for a two (2) week trial period.

1. The student must be a South Williamsport Area School District resident
2. Parent/Guardian(s) must follow district enrollment procedures, policies, and guidelines
3. Parent/Guardian(s) and student(s) must meet with South Williamsport Area School District designated personnel to enroll in the program and review the student's educational record to develop a cyber-program of study
4. An IEP team meeting will be held for students with special education services prior to any enrollment actions to determine if cyber learning is appropriate for the student and to modify the IEP to align with a cyber-based education program*
5. Parent/Guardian(s) and students must sign the South Williamsport Online Learning Academy Enrollment Guide
6. Attend a South Williamsport Area School District orientation prior to the beginning of the cyber option courses
7. Grades earned in approved cyber courses count toward a student's grade point average and eligibility for athletic and extracurricular activities
8. Student must be able / permitted to participate in live virtual meetings such as Zoom.

* As a student with an IEP attending Mountie Academy, it is required that students MUST participate in weekly IEP goal progress monitoring sessions. Goal progress will be assessed every 2 weeks (twice a month). The alternating weeks will consist of goal instruction/practice.

Failure to comply with this requirement will result in returning to school. Progress monitoring sessions can be set up by emailing Mrs. Finnerty (sfinnerty@swasd.org). Students can come to school to work with teacher at designated time or via zoom.

Continuation of Enrollment

Student Expectations

After the two (2) week trial period, continuation of enrollment is evaluated each marking period based on the criteria below:

1. Meet all established course deadlines
2. Actively participate in coursework by staying on pace or ahead in classes and passing all classes with at least a 60%
3. Make a good faith effort in all academic areas
4. Document evidence of active, regular participation in accordance with course requirements to satisfy compulsory attendance laws which apply to all students
5. Maintain regular contact with course teachers and South Williamsport Area School District personnel
6. Take the PSSA or Keystone Exam at the appropriate grade levels
7. If progress is not being made, student will be required to check in weekly with a representative from the school district

Parent/Guardian(s) Expectations

1. Assure compliance with South Williamsport Area School District policies and procedures
2. Provide an appropriate work environment for the student at home
3. Make a commitment to assist and monitor your student throughout their learning time
4. Monitor student progress using the provided login information
5. Assure that your student is actively participating in all course requirements and opportunities
6. Remember that compulsory attendance laws apply to cyber school student as in-person learning
7. Ensure that student is checking-in, if required, with a representative from the school district

District Expectations

1. Provide a rigorous and relevant cyber learning program that meets student needs and aligns with the district grade-level curriculum sequence
2. Monitor student progress and communicate with the student and family as needed
3. Provide students with guidance in regards to credit and course selection
4. Track credits towards graduation
5. Provide health, counseling, and other district services for the student to remove barriers to learning

Returning to the Building / Loss of Cyber Learning Privileges

The goal of Mountie Academy is for students seeking this option to achieve success. Success is measured by:

- ✓ maintaining course progress along the timeline prescribed for the student
- ✓ completion of coursework materials within the marking period dates
- ✓ passing of courses on the SWASD grade scale
- ✓ acquisition of grade level credits towards graduation (9-12)
- ✓ appropriate and regular communication between Mountie Academy staff and course instructors

When students fail to meet the indicators of success within the two (2) week trial period or at the conclusion of each marking period, they will return to the school.

When students fail to be successful during the marking period, students will return to school at the end of the marking period in which they are not meeting all criteria. Students and parents will be notified using email, phone, and/or written communication. The student's school counselor will be notified of the return date for the scheduling of courses. Once parents and the student are notified of the return date, any absences from school after that date will follow district compulsory attendance policies.

Return Dates for the 2022-2023 School Term Are:

Quarter One: November 1, 2022

Quester Two: January 19, 2023

Quarter Three: March 27, 2023

Blended Return to School:
When students are not successful and returned to school, at the discretion of the district, they may be permitted to use their own time to complete outstanding on-line courses for credit. Students will not receive any new courses.

Academic Calendar

Mountie Academy student's attendance and course completion will follow the regular school year calendar including vacation, weather, or other school closures. For example, if school us closed on Friday, Mountie Academy students, may, but are not required to complete courses. However, if the district schools transition to remote learning due to a winter storm, Mountie Academy students are also required to continue with course work as normal.

General Supplies

As with in-person learning, families are required to provide many general supplies students need for classes. For example, items such as glue sticks, paper, pencils, scissors, and calculators are not supplied by the school.

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Transportation

Transportation to and from the home to school building for educational opportunities, co-curricular, athletic, and social opportunities is the responsibility of the parent/guardian, unless during a regularly scheduled pick-up/drop-off time. Students must be rostered on a bus to ride it at any point to and/or from school.

Attendance

In Pennsylvania, parents/legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that their student(s) attends school. It is the responsibility of the family to ensure the student logs onto the courses to maintain appropriate pacing requirements.

Online students are South Williamsport Area School District students who are expected to comply with state, district, and school policies and guidelines. As online students, they assume a special responsibility to actively participate in the courses because of the unique independence that is offered to them. Time spent daily on coursework is similar to the time spent in school. The district and its partner will monitor a student's active engagement in courses with the expectation that the course will be successfully completed within the time prescribed by the district.

Students who are not meeting the required academic progress will be supported with an attendance improvement plan. If necessary, students may be required to return to the building for additional support.

As in-school, parents / guardians are required to submit an excuse to the school for every day that their student is absent from instruction. Excused absences for on-line, as with in-person learning, follow normal district policy and state law. Excuses can be emailed to sfinnerty@swasd.org. Truancy charges are applicable when regular attendance requirements and work production deadlines are not met.

Lack of connectivity is not an excused absence. Students are expected to have a secondary plan for internet access to maintain course completion schedules. If your student's alternate plan is not feasible due to extreme circumstances, it is the responsibility of the parent / guardian to notify the school within 24 hours.

Regular Contact

In addition to maintaining regular course work and pacing, it is essential for students and families to maintain regular contact with the Mountie Academy district staff. This communication is via school issued email or phone. Students may also sign into their Office 365 account and use TEAMS to communicate.

Graduation Requirements

Online students must meet board approved requirements for graduation as posted in the JR / SR High School student handbook at www.swasd.org.

Drop/Add/Withdraw

<mark>Students who decide to withdraw from a class, must decide within *five* days of the start of the course.</mark>

Course Completion

Online students must be finished with all course assignments for the first semester by Friday, January 13, 2023 and Tuesday, May 23, 2023 for the second semester. This is necessary, so that grades can be obtained and placed in Power School for report cards.

Acknowledgement of Understanding

Initial adjacent to each topic indicating that you have read, discussed, and will commit to the expectations and responsibilities of participation in Mountie Academy as a South Williamsport School District parent/guardian or student.

Parent / Guardian	Student	Enrollment Topic
		BEFORE ENROLLMENT
		INITIAL ENROLLMENT
		CONTINUATION OF ENROLLMENT
		RETURNING TO THE BUILDING / LOSS OF CYBER PRIVILEGES
		ACADEMIC CALENDAR
		GENERAL SUPPLIES
		TRANSPORTATION
		ATTENDANCE
		REGULAR CONTACT
		GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
		COURSE COMPLETION

_____   _____
Student Name (print)   Date

_____
Student Signature

_____
Parent Name (print)

_____   _____
Parent Signature   Date