

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE

# GOBLES VIRTUAL ACADEMY

AUGUST 17, 2020



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409 N. State Street • P.O. Box 412 • Gobles, MI 49055 • (269) 628-9340

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## Back to School Issue 2020-2021!

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! As we begin a school year unlike any we have experienced before, I want to thank you for your trust by selecting the Gobles Virtual Academy. For many, this will be a new learning experience for us, but I know Gobles Tigers will be able to work together through the changes. This year marks my ninth year with the Virtual Academy. There will be many changes to our program this year, including welcoming our K-5 students and families. I will be sending out communication throughout the year about the program, but please always feel free to contact me or our teacher and mentors if you have any questions.

In this Back to School issue, you will find important information about the online program for this semester. Please take time to read through all of the information in this newsletter and keep it in a safe place for the entire first semester.

Course enrollment information for the Fall 2020 semester will be sent as soon as it becomes available. Course information including login information and teacher/mentor assignments will be sent via email to student email accounts for students in grades 6-12 and to parent email accounts for students in grades K-5. If you would like a copy sent in the mail to you, please contact me to let me know. You will find that you have been assigned to a local, Gobles Public Schools teacher and/or mentor for each online course. These teachers/mentors will be contacting you once per week. It is part of the Gobles Virtual Academy Contract that the students have weekly contact with their teacher/mentors.

Students in grades 6-12 will be required to check their email daily. This is the email address that was provided to our online course providers when your course was ordered. The online providers and course instructors will be using this address to communicate important information to you throughout the school year. Please make sure you check this email on a regular basis. We recommend that you check this email at least twice per day (Monday through Friday). Please contact me if you have any questions about your student email account..

Please call me if you have questions or need assistance.

Thank You,

Mrs. LeAnn Seiler  
Online Learning Coordinator/Mentor  
Gobles Public Schools  
(269)628-9376  
leann.seiler@gobles.org

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## **Educational Development Plans**

The Michigan Department of Education requires all students who are enrolled in more than two online/virtual courses to complete an Education Development Plan. We will be sending out more information about how to complete the Educational Development Plans in a separate communication.

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## **Weekly Contact with Your Gobles Teacher Mentor**

Students and Gobles teachers/mentors must have weekly communication at least once per week. A contact week is defined as Wednesday through the following Tuesday and is set by the State of Michigan. This communication can be in the form of an email, telephone call, video conference, or text. Students in grades 6-12 will be contacted directly by their Gobles teacher/mentor.. If a teacher/mentor sends a check-in email to a student, the student will be asked to reply and answer questions about their courses and what they are learning about. Students in grades K-5 will be contacted via phone or video conferencing with a parent/guardian in attendance. Gobles teachers/mentors contact with only a parent/guardian will not be able to be counted as weekly contact with a student.


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## **Pre-Testing in Edgenuity Courses - Grade 6-12**

Students in grades 6-12 will begin each semester completing course pre-tests in their Edgenuity courses. Pre-tests are used for a number of different reasons. Pre-testing provides teachers a way to measure the amount of pre-existing knowledge on the course topic that a student has on the topics. This information also allows teachers to better anticipate which topics students may need extra support and which topics the students may excel at completing. The pre-tests are also compared to the final, cumulative exams at the end of the semester to measure the learning of the student at the completion of the course, as well as identify anything that may be needed to improve the course. Pre-testing is also a benefit for the students. Students will be able to get a preview of the topics that are going to be covered and can also help them self-identify those topics that they may need extra help in mastering throughout the course. The pre-tests will cover all of the material that they will be learning throughout the course. We understand that students may have very little knowledge of the subjects/topics at this time. The grade that they receive on this pretest will not affect their overall or final grade in the course. It is not factored into their grade at all.

## **Online Tests and Exams**

All online tests and exams must be proctored by your teacher or mentor. Students in grades K-5 will be contacting their online teachers for instructions and expectations. Students in grades 6-12 will have their tests and exams proctored by their Gobles' teacher or one of our mentors via Google Meet. Students will need to sign up to have tests proctored during scheduled sessions. A testing schedule will be sent to students with further instructions during the first week of school.





## **Time Expectations**

One great benefit to online learning is flexibility. Unless stated by your online provider, online courses are accessible 24 hours per day, 7 seven days per week. Your Gobles' instructors and mentors are available during normal school hours and may not be available during the evening, over the weekends, or when school is not in session. We expect students to spend at least one hour per day for each online course in order to complete the courses on time. Some courses and assignments may require more time to be spent per day to complete an assignment/task.

## **Important Calendar Information.....**

As part of Gobles Public Schools, the Gobles Virtual Academy follows the Gobles Public Schools District Calendar. Please check the Gobles website for up-to-date calendar information and about events that you are able to participate in as a student of Gobles Public Schools. <http://www.gobles.org/>

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## **Student Picture Day is Wednesday, September 2, 2020!**

*More information will be sent about Student Picture Day requirements for virtual students.*

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## **Student Count Day is Wednesday, October 7, 2020!**

*More information will be sent about Student Count Day requirements for virtual students.*

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## Online Learning Pacing Guide 2020-2021

You will be able to keep track of your progress throughout the semester using the pacing guide. This guide will let you know how far you should be in your course on specific dates. Your course may have a different calendar or pacing guide that indicates due dates and progress checks. *This is the pacing guide you will need to follow.* If you feel you are behind in a course at any time, please speak with Mrs. Seiler or your Gobles teacher/mentor. **ALL COURSES ARE ONE (1) SEMESTER IN LENGTH AND END ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021!**

Date	% Complete	Notes
Friday, September 4, 2020	5%	Online courses begin this week.
Friday, September 11, 2020	10%	
Friday, September 18, 2020	15%	
Friday, September 25, 2020	21%	
Friday, October 2, 2020	27%	
Friday, October 9, 2020	33%	October 7, 2020 - Early Release Day
Friday, October 16, 2020	39%	
Friday, October 23, 2020	45%	
Friday, October 30, 2020	51%	End of 1st Marking Period 10/30/20
Friday, November 6, 2020	57%	November 4, 2020 - Early Release Day
Friday, November 13, 2020	62%	November 9, 2020 Early Release, Conferences (K-12) 1:30-7:00 p.m. November 11, 2020 Early Release, Conferences (K-12) 1:30-7:00 p.m. November 13, 2020 - No School
Friday, November 20, 2020	68%	
Friday, November 27, 2020	70%	November 25-27, 2020 - Thanksgiving Break
Friday, December 4, 2020	76%	December 2, 2020 - Early Release Day
Friday, December 11, 2020	82%	
Friday, December 18, 2020	88%	
Friday, December 25, 2020	88%	Winter Vacation - no pacing expectation this week . Courses should be available this week.
Friday, January 1, 2021	88%	Winter Vacation-no pacing expectation this week. Courses should be available this week.
Friday, January 8, 2021	94%	
Friday, January 15, 2021	100%	All online assignments including final exams must be submitted to online instructors for grading by 3:00 PM on Friday, January 15, 2021. Online final exams are taken in the Online Learning Lab this week.
Friday, January 22, 2021		Final grades/scores are due from your teacher/provider to the school. End of the first semester.



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## **Important Semester Dates:**

*On scheduled days that Gobles Public Schools is closed, students will continue to be able to access their online courses unless specified by the course provider. Support may be limited on days that school is not in session.*

Monday, August 31, 2020: : First Day of School

Wednesday, September 2, 2020: Student Picture Day

Monday, September 14, 2020:: Student Educational Development Plans Due

Wednesday, October 7, 2020: STUDENT COUNT DAY

Wednesday, October 7, 2020: Early Release Day, Teacher Professional Development in the afternoon

Friday, October 30, 2020: 1st Marking Period Ends

Wednesday, November 4, 2020: Early Release Day, Teacher Professional Development in the afternoon

Friday, November 13, 2020: No School

Wednesday, November 25—Friday, November 27, 2020: Thanksgiving Break (No School)

Wednesday, December 2, 2020:: Early Release Day, Teacher Professional Development in the afternoon

Monday, December 21, 2020 -Friday , January 1, 2021: Winter Break

Monday, January 4, 2021: School Resumes from Winter Break

Monday, January 11—Friday, January 15, 2021: All online assignments including final exams are completed by 3:00 PM on Friday, January 15, 2021.

## **The Gobles Virtual Academy Team:**

Superintendent: Mr. Jeffery Rehlander

K-12 Principal: Mr. Tommie Saylor, Jr.

K-12 Assistant Principal: Ms. Katherine Markovitch

K-12 Dean of Students: Mr. William Lisowski

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Barb Ewald

Guidance Counselor: Mrs. Kelly Lyons

Online Learning Coordinator: Mrs. LeAnn Seiler

Online Learning Mentors: Ms. Mollie Barkovich

Mrs. Nancy Lumbert

### Gobles Virtual MS/HS Teaching Staff:

Mrs. Becky Drayton - HS Math

Mr. Bob Lisowski - HS Science

Mrs. Carrie Butler - Art, Academic Success

Mr. Ezra Piller - HS Science

Mrs. Heather Rhodes - HS World History

Mr. Marc Kline - HS US History, Economics,

Government, Psychology, Sociology

Mrs. Julie King - Special Education

Mrs. Leah Herman - MS Math/Science

Mrs. Kelly Lyons - PE/Health/Careers

Ms. Renee Rambadt - Special Education, PE

Mrs. Shaina Tubergan - MS English/Social Studies

Mrs. Veronica Peterson - HS English