

## Common Misconceptions about Online Learning

- **Online courses are easier than face to face courses. FALSE!**

Every course has a pacing guide for assignment due dates and students are expected to work every day, Monday through Friday, for at least 30-45 minutes each day. Every course has weekly assignments and a final exam. Online courses are aligned with the CCPS curriculum for student learning. There is no hiding in an online course. Every student has a front row seat.

- **It's easy to cheat in an online course. FALSE!**

Teachers quickly learn each student's writing style and skills. Teachers email message, text, and call their students to check on their understanding of course material. Learning is often applied in projects requiring high levels of thinking skills. Teachers use technology to track plagiarism.

- **Since online courses are self-paced, a student can take time off whenever and take it easy. FALSE!**

While online courses are designed to be self-paced, they are also designed to run for a designated period of time (like a semester). A student's progress in the course is documented through their work. The Learning Management System (LMS), which houses the online course, keeps track of a student's whereabouts in the course and the time spent in each area. A teacher has access to those records.

### Online is NOT Easier

- ◆ Dedicate time daily

- ◆ Realize that critical thinking and decision-making are part of the learning process

- **Online courses are software programs you do with no support. FALSE!**

Prior to taking an online course, students complete a self-assessment survey and an Online Orientation designed to help them learn and demonstrate online learning skills. Each course has a highly qualified teacher and a class size of approximately 20 students. Students are provided with their teacher's contact information, and classes open to an announcements page with important current information. Students receive feedback on each assignment and are encouraged to communicate with their teacher daily. Chat and video conferencing are possible for tutoring. Each student is assigned a Mentor. A Mentor is a school-based staff member who meets with students regularly to provide them support and monitor progress.

- **Students enrolled in online courses never get to interact with other students. FALSE!**

Courses include student to student discussions, group projects, journals, and web 2.0 tools such as wikis and blogs. Chat and online webinars are also possible for synchronous meetings. Courses may include group projects, evaluating each other's work through self and peer assessment, group simulations, and other collaborative assignments.