

## Report on training provided to Teachers on the delivery of online content and training provided to students and parents on how to use virtual content provided the Blue Water Middle College Academy

### Part 1. Report on training provided to teachers on delivery of online content.

The Blue Water Middle College Academy (BWMCA) relies on teachers from a variety of educational partner districts to deliver *high school content* to its students who attend those high schools. The teachers are not employed or supervised by the BWMCA, and professional development for those teachers is provided by their local district. Training in delivering online content to students was provided by our partner districts and is viewable in the training reports posted on each district's transparency website.

The BWMCA relies on St. Clair County Community College (SC4) instructors to deliver *college course content* to its students. SC4 provided training to its instructors on setting up and maintaining online courses. Some instructors have taught online sections for several years. Prior to the pandemic, SC4 had been significantly increasing the number of sections being offered online and the number of instructors experienced in teaching online. While teaching online has been new to many SC4 instructors, many are experienced and have been able to mentor their colleagues and present ideas and advice to them.

The BWMCA does not teach full high school or college courses, but three BWMCA staff members led the new cohort of students in a weekly Seminar. The Seminar sections were expected to be held in-person on the college campus, but when the college shut down most in-person instruction shortly before the fall semester began, the Seminar sections also went online. The BWMCA staff members quickly learned how to use Zoom video conferencing to host the weekly sessions with their students and Google Classroom to host the week content, assignments, quizzes, and other Seminar resources. Google Classroom tutorials were utilized throughout the semester to provide training needed to host the online Seminar materials. The three BWMCA staff members relied on each other to share ideas for improving use of the Zoom videoconferencing framework and Google Classroom.

No new content will be delivered by BWMCA staff members in the winter semester other than individual or small group support sessions, as needed.

## Part 2. Report on training provided to students and parents on use of online content.

### Students

The Blue Water Middle College Academy partner high schools provide their students with training for success in the various methods of online learning offered by each school. Information on the training for each school is published in their Covid-19 Extended Learning Plan training reports on each district's website.

BWMCA students are challenged with online learning for their SC4 college courses in the winter 2020 and fall 2020 semesters. SC4 and the middle college have learned what creates the biggest challenges for students and are working to address those challenges.

One of the biggest challenges occurs when students are unaware of how to find all the information needed for each course. SC4 uses Canvas as the primary learning management system (LMS). Like all LMS's, instructors can choose from a variety of components in Canvas to post information, announcements, content (lectures, videos, articles), assignments, and assessments. Submitting assignments can also be done in a variety of ways. Therefore, training and support offered to students focuses on helping them explore and understand all the components in Canvas and how each of their instructors utilize them.

The BWMCA has not required all students to participate in particular trainings on Canvas and online learning, but the following training and support resources are communicated to all students by both the BWMCA and SC4:

- SC4 Student Navigators are experienced tutors from SC4's Achievement Center who are available for live, individual support sessions with students that will lead them through each of their courses in Canvas to be sure they are aware of everything they should be to succeed. Each course in Canvas has an announcement box explaining the role of Student Navigators and how to connect with one.
- BWMCA staff fulfill a similar role as the Student Navigators. When they become aware a student is struggling in an online course, they will arrange a live Zoom meeting in which the student will share their screen and their Canvas sites for each course. Students are often unaware of critical information included in the Canvas site. Once they see it, their anxiety and frustration with the course drops, and they can get to work.
- SC4 has offered a tutorial course about Canvas as a "class" in each student's Canvas dashboard.
- A detailed Canvas orientation document is also provided to students. BWMCA staff will be creating a condensed video presentation of the most important sections of this orientation to send to students and parents.

At the beginning of the semester, all students were emailed basic instructions on how to access their courses in Canvas and recommended to look over all components carefully so they fully understand how the instructor has organized the course.

As part of the new student Seminar in fall semester, students were taught the importance of communicating with their instructors and strategies for doing so. Lack of communication with instructors caused by not checking email or using the means of communication recommended or required by different instructors creates another significant challenge to students' success in online courses.

### Parents

Our local high school partners have provided information and training to parents on the online learning tools their children's teachers are using.

The BWMCA has not provided specific training to parents on SC4's Canvas learning management system, but information specific to helping their middle college student succeed in their online college courses, including the Canvas orientation video presentation, will be sent to them at the start of the winter semester.