Welcome to Tacoma Online

Welcome to Tacoma Online, an online program designed to provide flexible access to your education via online courses. As an alternative to the norm, we understand that every student chose this option for a reason. Whatever your reason is, please know we will do our best to provide a personalized experience that includes empathy and grace.

Same But Different

You may have heard the phrase, "It's the same, but different". This is a term that points directly at Tacoma Online's flexible approach to education. In addition, skills that students need to be successful in the in-person setting (Communication, Time Management, Engagement, etc...) are typically skills that would be needed to be successful in the online setting. Those skills just look a little different. However, there are some differences between Online/In-Person Learning that may require a shift in how you approach school. Here are a couple differences:

1. **Structure**- There is no daily bell to indicate the start/finish of each course
2. **Coursework** is mostly asynchronous and comes from the Online Course Platform (Edgenuity /Imagine Learning
3. **Communication** is done via Outlook Email/Microsoft Teams
4. **Instruction** - Majority of instruction takes place within Edgenuity course that was customized by our Tacoma Online teachers. Academic support is provided through email or TEAMS meetings with your teacher.

Key Success Factors

1. Works well independently

2. Checks TPS email daily

3. Sets own schedule and sticks to it

4. Asks for help when needed

TACOMA ONLINE

On the first page, we mentioned some key differences between in-person and online learning like Structure, Coursework, Communication and Instruction. Usually, students that are successful in the online setting are able to navigate these differences. To help you, Tacoma Online strongly recommends that students do the following:

1. **Structure-** To ensure Tacoma Online students make efficient use of time, they should be using their calendar located in Outlook (student email system). Use your calendar to schedule time to do your schoolwork. You can also set reminders to keep you on track.

2. **Coursework-** In order to stay on pace with the class, Tacoma Online students should focus on assignment completion, not total time spent completing assignments. The Edgenuity system tells you when you're behind or on pace in a class. Work to stay on pace.

3. **Communication-** At Tacoma Online, email is the main communication tool between teacher and student. At minimum, Tacoma Online students are expected to check their student email account daily. If possible, we recommend Tacoma Online students add the Microsoft Outlook App to their smart phone and turn the notifications on. Doing this will ensure important information is received is real time.

4. **Instruction-** Tacoma Online prides itself on providing a personalized learning experience for all students. The majority of initial instruction takes place in Edgenuity. However, if either you or your teacher determine additional academic support is necessary, use your TPS email account to communicate with your teacher and get extra support in your learning.

PACE - PACE Stands for Personalized, Accelerated, Connected, Empowered and this program is the heart of what we do. All students at Tacoma Online have an advocate, their PACE Coach. This coach has a group of students that meet altogether twice weekly in optional but encouraged meetings. Your PACE coach will also work with you to schedule one 15 minute TEAMS meeting each week that counts as your attendance for TPS and WA State. The meetings are required.