



## High School Parent Overview of **DIGITAL KNIGHTS** Online Learning

The common denominator among parents who choose an online high school program is the goal to remove barriers that restrict their students from reaching their true potential. These parents are passionately motivated to choose a learning environment that is well suited to their teen's unique needs. They understand the power of individualized learning and are willing to get involved.

All students are diverse, with many different reasons for choosing an online school. Some of the most common reasons are:

- Are accelerated learners and can move at a faster pace
- Need more time to master concepts than the standard classroom allows
- Are accelerated in some subjects, but need to move slowly in others
- Feel they don't fit in, or are bullied in their school
- Are easily distracted in a classroom setting, or have a learning challenge
- Seek extra attention not easily found in overcrowded classrooms
- Are homebound or undergoing medical treatments
- Travel frequently or must move throughout the year due to family situations
- Are elite athletes or talented performers pursuing their dreams

In high school, students are expected to be more accountable for their daily progress than in earlier grades and will work directly with teachers who set their instructional schedule, thereby reducing the amount of time a parent needs to spend each day. A full-time, stay-at-home parent is generally not required in high school, unless there are special circumstances that necessitate it. However, the parent plays an important supportive role, helping ensure the student is following through on his or her assignments, providing moral support, and tracking progress and attendance in the online school. A parent's regular presence in the home is a strong predictor of student success, allowing for appropriate supervision and support. The ability to spend time at home supporting your student is a positive factor.

If enrolling in the public school, your teen will be expected to spend an average of 1 to 1.5 hours per subject, a day, five days a week, engaged in schoolwork to complete assignments and to follow the teachers' instructional plans. In other words, your student will typically need to spend about 1 to 1.5 hours per subject on schoolwork and homework each day. Supporting these minimum requirements is a commitment that you must be willing to make.

As with a traditional brick and mortar school, students must be disciplined and take responsibility. A student establishing a strong rapport with teachers and advisors is critical. Students willing to reach out and ask for help will find themselves surrounded with academic support where and when they need it.

Online learning is a serious and rigorous educational option. You should understand there will be challenges for you and your teen—with both similarities to and differences from a traditional school environment. Online learning will give you and your student tools to help you succeed, including access to a qualified teacher who will provide instruction, guidance, and support; a beautifully organized, exciting curriculum; online tracking tools; a supportive online community; all school materials; and 24/7 technical support.