

e-Learning in the CRSD

Tips and Reminders for Students

E-Learning courses:

- Require a SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT (as in lots and lots) of PERSONAL MOTIVATION!
- Are NOT “easier” than taking a class in the regular classroom.
- May take you *less* time than a traditional class...or they might take you *more* time. It all depends on the amount of effort you put into the course!
- Will result in as much (or as little) learning as YOU desire.
- PLATO Virtual Academy courses have real teachers and real deadlines. You must stay on track with due dates established for the course. The grade reported by the PLATO system is the one that will be reported on your Progress Report (and report card) every three weeks.
- Are not for everyone! If the course doesn’t work out for you, it’s o.k. BUT, you must make that decision within the first two weeks of the course...OR it will go on your transcript as a “Withdraw Fail” if you decide to drop after the two week drop/add period has ended. **There will be NO exceptions to this policy!!!!**

REQUIREMENTS for a SUCCESSFUL e-learning experience:

- **Internet Explorer** is the preferred browser for PLATO courses! Using Firefox or Safari may result in some features not working!
- Be sure to **run a system check** on your home computer before accessing your course to ensure everything works the way it should. Directions are on the CRSD homepage under “Students” and then PLATO Resources.
- Spend each and every e-learning class period on your e-learning course!
- **TAKE NOTES!** E-learning classes are just like “regular” classes, so notes are important to capture the information presented in the instructional (tutorial) portions of the course ... and you can usually use the notes on quizzes and some mastery tests!
- **MAINTAIN A BINDER or NOTEBOOK FOR THE CLASS!** There will be activities and assignments you will need to print off and save, and there will be plenty of notes you’ll take, regardless of the class. Keeping a notebook or binder specifically devoted to this class will help you be successful – just as devoting a notebook/binder to any other class helps you stay organized and, in the end, results in greater success in the course.
- **ASK QUESTIONS!** Whenever you have a question or a problem, be sure to ask! Begin with your instructor, as s/he is the one who can answer questions specifically about your class. If it’s a question about a “tech” issue, ask your instructor first, and s/he may direct you to PLATO support or to someone in our school district. Bottom line is this: Do NOT let days or weeks pass without PROACTIVELY finding a solution to a problem! The only one who will lose is YOU (the student), as you will miss out on valuable time to complete the course.
- **Take advantage of your teacher’s “office hours” and the Skype/chat option!** (See separate handout for details.)