



**Shrewsbury High School
Fully Remote Stand Alone Learning Model
(Cohort D)
Information for Students & Families
August 31, 2020**

Overview

For this coming school year, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education has mandated that school districts must provide an all remote learning option for families. We know that some families must utilize this option because their child or a family member has a medical issue that makes them more vulnerable to COVID-19, and in other cases families may not be comfortable sending their children back to school in person.

Our first preference would have been to have SHS faculty teach students who are in the fully remote program. However, given the number of students whose families opted for the hybrid model (approximately 80%), and given the complexity of having so many unique class schedules amongst the 350+ SHS students who will be fully remote (across the approximately 250 courses that SHS offers), the reality is that we do not have the staffing capacity to provide both.

Students at SHS learning in a fully remote learning model will be in a separate program from those learning in-person for two days and remotely for three days each week in the hybrid program. As noted in our school district's [reopening plan](#), students in the fully remote program are considered a separate group, called Cohort D, to distinguish between the experiences of students in an alternating in-person and remote "hybrid" model and this stand-alone fully remote learning model.

In order to provide the range of specific courses that each Cohort D SHS student requires for course credit, progress toward graduation, and preparing for post-secondary success (typically higher education for most SHS students), the fully remote program for SHS will be one where the educational program will consist of courses provided asynchronously by third-party online education providers which students will work through independently. This work will include viewing online lessons taught by licensed educators, engaging with interactive online curriculum materials, and completing online assessments. Additionally, a team of SHS educators will be assigned to supervise and support Cohort D students' independent remote learning in each core subject, and these SHS educators will be the teachers of record for course grades (more on this below). Further, additional ongoing connections with the SHS community will be provided wherever possible, such as participation in co-curricular activities, access to remote school-wide events, etc.

So who will be delivering instruction to students learning in the stand alone full remote model? Students in the fully remote model will learn independently and asynchronously, engaging with lessons prepared and recorded by the licensed educators from a third-party online platform, primarily [Edgenuity](#), but in some cases [Virtual High School \(VHS\)](#), or another provider will be utilized. These lessons will include video lectures, screencasts, and interactive learning tools.

Full Remote / Cohort D Coordinator Responsibilities

Because of the nature of the remote learning program, SHS has committed to providing a team of SHS educators to supervise and support the remote learning of SHS students in Cohort D. Because of the wide range of students across so many different online courses, these faculty will not plan for or deliver daily instruction. There will be a faculty member for each core subject (Science, Math, Social Science, English, Foreign Language) who will oversee the coursework in those subjects and who will be the teacher of record for grading.

These teachers will be required to:

- monitor daily attendance
- monitor student progress through the learning platform dashboard (including quizzes, course assignments, etc)
- hold online extra help sessions/office hours to provide academic support (in addition to tutoring provided separately through the online platforms)
- grade larger or more complex assignments (papers, lab reports, SHS-specific assessments, etc.) that may not be part of the online platform
- maintain grades in PowerSchool/third party platform, including progress reports and report cards
- collaborate with the team and coordinate support for students, including being the first point of contact for students and parents as well as the liaison to connect with members of the SHS leadership team and School Counseling Department
- communicate with Cohort D students' parents/caretakers a) collectively to provide general program information and updates, and b) individually as needed to discuss a student's progress or needs

In addition, because students in Cohort D are Shrewsbury students, anyone learning in the full remote stand alone model can access support from grade level administrators and/or SHS school counselors or adjustment counselors as needed.

Remote Learning Academy Platforms

Shrewsbury will be using a blend of platforms to meet student needs. Most courses will be available through Edgenuity, including Foreign Language and many AP course offerings, while others will be offered through Virtual High School (VHS).

Please see the tables below for the courses available.

Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Algebra I* Algebra II* Geometry* Precalculus* Statistics Advanced Quantitative Reasoning	Biology* Chemistry* Introduction to Physics* Environmental Science	World History I/World History II United States History I United States History II* Human Geography Government
English	Foreign Languages	Physical Education/Health
English 9* English 10* English 11* English 12*	Spanish I, II, III French I, II, III Chinese I, II Latin I, II	Foundation of Personal Fitness Healthy Living (semester) Lifetime Fitness (full year)

*These courses can be taken at the Honors level.

The AP courses listed below in the left hand column are available through Edgenuity. Additionally, we are working with Virtual High School (VHS) to provide opportunities for students to take AP courses in subjects not available via Edgenuity, which are listed in the right-hand column.

AP Offerings for Cohort D

Advanced Placement (AP): Edgenuity	Advanced Placement(AP): Virtual High School
<p style="text-align: center;"> Biology Environmental Science French Spanish U.S History Human Geography Psychology Calculus AB Statistics English Language and Composition English Literature and Composition </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Music Theory Latin Chemistry Physics 1 Physics C Calculus BC </p>

Fully remote options for upper level foreign language courses (IV & V) are in the process of being finalized, and this information will be communicated to students and families who chose those courses during the spring registration process as soon as we have it.

Core and Elective Options Available

SHS school counselors will align each Cohort D student’s requested SHS course selections with those available in Edgenuity or VHS. The SHS School Counseling Department will also ensure each Cohort D student’s courses will meet the school district’s graduation requirements. It is important to note however that not all of the electives offered at SHS will be available through Edgenuity. Further, students will be required to take Health and/or Physical Education. For this reason, some students may not have an elective or may need to enroll in an elective offered by Edgenuity that corresponds with a course offering in the SHS Program of Studies. Finally, the opportunities for electives for students in Cohort D may be limited if students elect to switch to a hybrid learning model.

We are mindful that many students in Cohort D are juniors and seniors, and we are committed to ensuring that students interested in applying to college can meet college admission requirements.

Switching Between All Remote and the Hybrid Models

Once a student begins in all remote Cohort D, it may take a lengthy period of time (approximately 30 school days) to be able to add a student back into the in-person schedule. Some classes the student originally registered for last spring may no longer be available if the student begins in Cohort D and then switches to hybrid. Given the complexity of students’

schedules at SHS, it is strongly recommended students who elect full remote should stay in this choice for a minimum of one marking term (quarter).

Remote Learning Schedule

The learning day

The time allotments listed in the revised remote learning model per subject area would remain consistent for students in Cohort D. In a remote learning model, students work independently through course content. Just as they do in an in-person instructional model, students will need to manage various assignments within each course. Each day students will be expected to log in to demonstrate consistent attendance, and attendance will be closely monitored in Edgenuity, just as we monitor attendance at SHS. Specifically, class attendance will be taken daily and made part of the student record. Attendance will be used to gauge student involvement and will be factored into the students' earned credit.

Although students in Cohort D can complete their work independently and asynchronously, it is recommended they follow the hybrid academic schedule (see table below) to get into a regular school routine. SHS teachers who are supervising and supporting Cohort D students will be able to evaluate a student's attendance by monitoring the number of active minutes students are logged into the online learning platform, by checking their progress through the coursework. Students may wish to access online coaching or support, and students should anticipate that live help is limited to a prescribed schedule during the school day.

7:35am - 8:20am	Period 1
8:25am - 9:10am	Period 2
9:15am - 10am	Period 3
10:05am - 10:50am	Period 4
10:55am - 11:40am	Period 5
11:45am - 1:10pm	Period 6
11:45am - 12:10pm	1st lunch
12:15pm - 12:40pm	2nd lunch
12:45pm - 1:10pm	3rd lunch
1:15pm - 2pm	Period 7

Students can access their school counselors by scheduling meetings with counselors via email and Zoom meetings. Additionally, we are working on developing opportunities for students to

participate in activities such as homeroom and/or advisory sessions. These opportunities will be communicated to students in all cohorts when these plans are finalized.

The calendar year

The start and end dates of quarters, semesters, and grading period in Edgenuity and Virtual High School will closely align with SHS grade reporting dates listed below.

Semester 1: 9/12/20-2/2/21

Quarter 1: 9/15/20 - 11/17/20 (42 days)

Quarter 2: 11/18/20 - 2/2/21 (43 days)

Semester 2: 2/3/20-6/16/20

Quarter 3: 2/3/21 - 4/8/21 (42 days)

Quarter 4: 4/19/21 - 6/16/21 (43 days)

Students with Special Education Services

The district will be providing special education services remotely to students in Cohort D who have an Individualized Education Program. The SHS Special Education Department will coordinate these services with each student and their family directly.

Grading

The third-party learning platforms have pre-designed assessments. Some assignments will be scored automatically and recorded, some will be reviewed and/or graded by the SHS teachers supporting Cohort D, and some assignments will not be graded, as they are intended to help students activate prior knowledge and/or reflect on their learning. However, even ungraded assignments “count” - the activities students complete will be factored into their progress. Finally, students and families should understand that it’s not possible to take an assessment until completing the required course content.

Grading and GPA/Class Rank

At SHS, both hybrid and full stand alone remote courses will apply the same grading and credit structure based on course level. For example, an Honors or AP class in Edgenuity will earn the same weight toward GPA and class rank. Please note that for the past few years, SHS has no longer been reporting class rank to colleges and universities.

State Testing

Schools districts are still awaiting guidance from the department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on MCAS this year. It is assumed that testing will take place, however. With most school districts providing a full remote learning option, the state will need to provide the option for all remote students to take the test if MCAS is given. MCAS will be addressed by the state sometime after the school year opens.

Recommendations and College Application Process

There will be no changes to the college recommendation and application process. Students in Cohort D will continue to work with their assigned SHS school counselor, and if they are interested in applying to college they should seek out faculty, community members, coaches, etc. to ask for letters of recommendation. Students in Cohort D will be afforded the opportunity to take any assessments (like AP exams) offered to SHS students in the hybrid model. Similarly, all students will receive communications through Schoology and School Counseling Newsletters regarding opportunities for virtual college visits, college fairs, and workshops on the college application process.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Fully Remote Program

Why did Shrewsbury Public Schools choose [Edgenuity](#) as its primary online platform for Cohort D?

Answer: The district selected Edgenuity to be the main provider for remote learning at the high school level for several reasons. First of all, Edgenuity was recently vetted by a group of over 40 educators at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). A diverse group of curriculum experts, administrators and teachers considered a variety of vendors with the goal of identifying companies whose products aligned to state standards across grade spans, and Edgenuity was selected as an option for Massachusetts districts to engage with for remote learning. Edgenuity is a longstanding provider of virtual and blended learning solutions for middle schools and high schools nationwide. Accordingly, their curriculum mirrors state standards, and their course catalog covers much of the courses that the SHS students in Cohort D initially selected. Secondly, Edgenuity has been [accredited](#) by a variety of public and private organizations in the education industry. In use in public school districts in Massachusetts for some time, Edgenuity has a track record of working successfully with districts to meet diverse needs, from credit recovery to providing remote learning options to student athletes. Since school closure, more districts nearby have opted to work with Edgenuity. Finally, Edgenuity's cost allows for us to meet the diverse needs of the students at Shrewsbury High School that are in Cohort D. However, Edgenuity is not the only platform our district will be using, as we will also be utilizing Virtual High School for some courses not available in Edgenuity, and SHS has a longstanding relationship with VHS.

Question: Will Cohort D students have support from Shrewsbury Public Schools staff?

A Shrewsbury High School educator will be assigned to take attendance, determine if a student is making adequate progress, and grade lengthier assessments like papers and lab reports (see page 2 above). Although a Shrewsbury educator will be grading some assignments, all of the teaching will be provided through the platform, through the use of video clips, embedded reading, related lesson materials and assignments within the learning platform system.

The main remote learning platform provider, Edgenuity, provides online tutoring with a live teacher with background in the course content to support students. Virtual High School offers help from that course's teacher, but that assistance is typically not available live.

Question: What happens if the state shuts schools like in the Spring and all students have to learn remotely all the time? Will fully remote students have to stay with the third-party program or will they join with Cohorts B & C?

Answer: First, if a shift to full-remote learning is required due to a change in the spread of COVID-19, this may be on a short-term basis (a 14-day period, for example), and we would not make changes in students' programs for something like this. If closing schools to in-person learning is being done for a long period of time, we will assess the approach being used with Cohorts A, B, C, & D and how to proceed. For example, VHS courses run all year, so students in Cohort D may remain enrolled in VHS courses even if all students end up being taught remotely, or if they seek a change in learning model. Students enrolled in VHS courses could continue from SHS and/or remotely, should the entire district go full remote. Because courses in Edgenuity run by semester, there may be the opportunity for Cohort D students to join an all remote class with students in Cohorts B/C at the semester change. We are asking that students commit to Cohort D for several weeks at minimum, to allow for us to review grades and transfer credits.

Question: Can I take a third-party online course that is different than one that matches the SHS course I signed up for last spring?

Answer: No. Students' courses will be aligned with the selections they made during the spring semester.

Question: I see there are other electives offered in Edgenuity. Can I take any electives I want?

Answer: No. Our goal in managing each student's course load is to replicate the courses we are offering in person at SHS rather than supplement them. Students will be enrolled in the electives they signed up in Edgenuity if available. We are trying to align Edgenuity's offerings to our SHS Program of Studies as best we can.

Question: Will I be able to enroll in the SHS classes I originally registered for if I start in all remote (Cohort D) and then switch to the hybrid model at some point?

Answer: Not necessarily. Given the complexity of students schedules at SHS, it is strongly recommended students who elect full remote should stay in this choice for a minimum of one marking term. If a student switches from Cohort D to the hybrid model, the courses a student is assigned to will depend on physical seats available in course sections to maintain physical distancing. SHS will handle students seeking to transfer back into the hybrid model on a case-by-case basis.

Question: If the SHS elective I signed up for cannot be replicated with a third-party platform, can I take one from Edgenuity or VHS?

Answer: In these cases, students may be allowed to take a different elective with the permission of the Director of School Counseling and their Assistant Principal. We will use the first, second, and third choices of elective from last spring's course registration in this process.

Question: What happens with my SHS AP summer work?

Answer: Any work students completed over the summer will enable a student to be prepared for AP, no matter the learning model. However, students in Cohort D will not receive a grade for this work.

Question: If my child is enrolled in the stand alone, full remote learning model, will s/he still be able to participate in co-curricular activities like academic teams, clubs, student government, drama productions, etc., and/or participate in athletics?

Answer: Yes. As students enrolled in the Shrewsbury Public Schools, students in Cohort D are eligible to participate in activities such as academic teams, clubs, student government, and athletics to the extent possible as allowed by state regulations. Many of these offerings may be offered remotely.