

OKMULGEE ACE HIGH SCHOOL FAQ

What is Okmulgee ACE High School?

Okmulgee ACE High School is an exciting and innovative contemporary learning environment being offered by Okmulgee Public Schools. It's one of the first personalized learning schools to be opened in Oklahoma and will be located on the Okmulgee High School campus. Classes are scheduled to begin in the fall of 2016.

Enrollment is open to Okmulgee students currently in grades 8-11, and the enrollment period runs Monday, April 11 through Friday, April 22. Applications are available on the district website at www.okmulgeeps.com.

What is personalized learning?

Personalized learning is an innovative approach to education that gives each student a highly personalized learning experience, one that is customized to their unique needs. One of the key attributes of personalized learning is that it gives students "voice and choice" in their learning experience.

A number of factors are taken into consideration when creating a learning path for each student, including:

- Readiness level
- Personal method of learning
- Interests
- Learning styles and strengths
- Individual pace

What are the benefits of personalized learning?

Personalized learning helps students acquire the learning and skills that are needed in today's rapidly changing world. More importantly, by teaching students "how to learn," it transforms education into a lifelong learning experience by equipping them with the skills they need to learn, grow, and find solutions to problems independently.

Specifically, personalized learning:

- Allows students to take ownership of their learning
- Increases student engagement
- Raises student achievement
- Supports soft-skill development (collaboration, interaction, presentation skills, punctuality, reliability, initiative, hard work, and others)

Why is Okmulgee Public Schools making this move toward personalized learning?

In the last two decades, education leaders have been working to find better ways to prepare students for an increasingly complex and technology driven world. Personalized learning has

emerged as perhaps the most promising innovation in education—one that offers the potential to better prepare today’s students for a 21st century world.

Aware of this trend in education, Okmulgee Public Schools Superintendent-Elect Renee Dove and members of her leadership team have spent the last three years researching and developing a personalized learning program that is designed to give Okmulgee students a voice and choice in their academic plan and life plan, which they feel will make education more personal and valuable for each student.

Is Okmulgee becoming a leader in education innovation?

The answer is a resounding “yes”! With the opening of Okmulgee ACE, Okmulgee is now at the forefront of education, and Okmulgee students will have the opportunity to experience a transformative way of learning that very few students across the U.S. currently have access to.

Do the benefits of Okmulgee ACE extend beyond the student experience?

Absolutely. For a community to thrive in today’s world, it must have a workforce of highly educated, highly capable, highly employable residents. By preparing students to be more successful in today’s rapidly changing technological world, Okmulgee ACE is readying these students for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Even more importantly, the thinking and problem-solving skills acquired through Okmulgee ACE will help foster a new generation of entrepreneurs—job creators who can contribute to the growth and stability of our community. Currently, there are several advanced, high-tech companies located in Okmulgee, and Okmulgee ACE will give students the opportunity to work along side and shadow the men and women serving in those jobs. These local technicians and craftsmen are solving real-world problems and satisfying market place needs. Giving students a first-hand look at how these companies and people work will ultimately provide a positive impact on our community.

What will students who enroll in Okmulgee ACE be doing?

Students will work under the guidance of mentors and success coaches and will engage in a number of personalized learning-based activities, including:

- Utilizing project-based learning in a collaborative environment
- Making oral presentations to present and defend their work
- Focusing on career development and life-planning
- Taking charge of their own learning, their own futures, and their own lives
- Developing traits of self-agency, self-reliance, and life-long learning.

Who is eligible to enroll in Okmulgee ACE?

In its opening year, Okmulgee ACE High School will be able to accommodate approximately 150 students in grades 9 through 12. Students who are currently enrolled in grades 8-11 are eligible to apply.

How do I enroll my student?

Open enrollment for Okmulgee ACE High School begins on Monday, April 11 at 6:00 AM and ends Friday, April 22 at 6:00 PM. An application is available on the district website at www.okmulgeeps.com.

Does the role of the teacher change at Okmulgee ACE?

Personalized learning does represent a shift in the way teachers interact with students and manage their classroom. Perhaps the biggest change is how teachers engage with their students.

In the traditional education model, a teacher functions as a “sage on the stage,” typically standing at the front of a classroom providing instruction to an entire class of students. In a personalized learning environment, a teacher acts more as a “guide by the side.” Teaching still occurs, but it’s usually with smaller groups of students, and the teacher takes on the added role of being a mentor, advisor, and facilitator as each student moves through their own learning path.

How will teachers be prepared to transition to personalized learning?

Each teacher assigned to Okmulgee ACE will undergo in-depth training and preparation for this exciting, new personalized learning experience. The initial training has already begun and will continue until the first day of school. Teachers and leaders will also engage in ongoing training during the first year of Okmulgee ACE.

How will teachers manage personalized learning at Okmulgee ACE?

To manage the individual learning experiences of 150 different students, Okmulgee ACE will use Edivate Learn, one of the most advanced personalized learning resources available today. Edivate Learn is a next-generation learning platform that allows teachers to create and manage individualized learning paths for each student. It includes standards-based tools and research-based content, and gives teachers complete control over the personalized learning environment. Edivate Learn makes it possible for any participant in the system—including leaders, teachers, students, and parents—to monitor student progress and access data in real time.