

APEX LEARNING EMPOWERS STRUGGLING STUDENTS by Kris Griffin, Principal – Alternative Education

Apex Learning, the leading provider of online curriculum for differentiated instruction, and Reed City Area Public Schools have teamed up to meet the needs of struggling high school students-and keep them on track for graduation. Apex is currently available both at the high school and Reed City Community High, also known as Alternative Education.

Last fall, teachers from both buildings were instructed on the use of Apex Learning. At Community High, older computers were upgraded and new computers were purchased to bring the total of 30 computers available to students. The school district purchased 100 seats that are available to students. Students can be enrolled in one class or multiple classes, but each student counts as one seat.

Students come to Community High with varying numbers of credits and abilities. Students are often transferred from the high school to Community High, because they are behind on credits, have had discipline or attendance problems, or are not fitting in well at the high school. With the new Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements, students are struggling even more and may have to repeat classes, which they can do with Apex.

With only two teachers, it is difficult to teach traditional classes when so many of your students need different credits. With Apex Learning, you can have a classroom of students, all taking different online classes but still having the availability of a certified teacher in the classroom available to help the student. “It is very difficult for teachers to effectively meet individual needs when they are teaching a class of 15-20 students with different learning styles, skill levels, and behaviors. Digital curriculum makes it possible for teachers to provide differentiated instruction, giving all students the opportunity to achieve academic success-and to hopefully graduate with their peers,” said Karen Knapp, teacher at Reed City Community High.

Courses available include the range of courses necessary to meet high school graduation requirements in math, science, language arts, social studies, and world languages. There are multiple levels of classes for students not working at grade level. The digital curriculum all addresses different learning styles and provides multiple instructional representations that incorporate audio, video, graphics, images, and animations.

Reed City Area Public Schools will be looking at the possibilities of offering Apex Learning classes this summer to help students with credit recovery to stay on track for graduation. If you have any questions, please call the school at 832-5517.

Coyote Corner
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