

Building Futures

The mission of DuPage High School District 88 (comprised of Addison Trail High School and Willowbrook High School) is to work for the continuous improvement of student achievement.

As part of that mission, the district continuously implements programs and supports to help students prepare for post-secondary success. So when Addison Trail Math Department Head Jason Bugajsky and Willowbrook Math Department Head Brian Chelmecki noticed an increase in the number of students completing all math courses offered in District 88, they began working on a solution for students to further their math careers by offering an opportunity for them to take Calculus 3 for college credit. During the 2016-17 school year, they worked with District 88 administrators to form a plan. The group reached out to Elmhurst College to see whether a partnership was possible and was met with open arms. Not only did the college provide an option for Calculus 3, but during planning meetings and through collaboration, the teams began to discuss a second course to serve a greater population of District 88 students. As a result, two asynchronous math courses were formed.

The District 88 team worked with professors and administrators at Elmhurst College to create an Asynchronous Calculus 3 Model and an Asynchronous College Algebra class, which are provided to students at no cost through the use of Title I funds. For the Asynchronous Calculus 3 class, pupils participate in live online lectures led by an Elmhurst College professor and complete modules and homework assigned by the college. District 88 math teachers guide and support students through the course. After successfully completing the course, students receive credit for Elmhurst College's Calculus 3.

Through the Asynchronous College Algebra course, participants are enrolled as Elmhurst College students. The staff at Addison Trail and Willowbrook collaborated with Elmhurst College faculty regarding assignments and grading, and students complete the class with the support of District 88 teachers. After successfully completing the course, participants receive college credit that can be transferred to other colleges and universities while serving as a placement mechanism, allowing students to directly enroll in subsequent college courses. So far, 108 students have taken these classes, and we look forward to increasing that number.

We continuously research and implement programs to further the education of our students, and these asynchronous math classes are tremendous examples of this work. Developing college-level courses for our students to complete in high school also allows them to save money on college tuition. I would like to thank the District 88, Addison Trail, Willowbrook and Elmhurst College administrators and staff members who continue to make this project possible for their innovation, passion and commitment to ensure a high-quality educational experience for our students. This team is truly deserving of the Illinois State Board of Education Those Who Excel award.

Respectfully,



Scott J. Helton, Ed.D.
DuPage High School District 88 Superintendent of Schools