



Peninsula Optional High School

Fact Sheet

Peninsula Optional is an innovative alternative program that combines the best research-based educational models to provide a relevant, hands-on learning opportunity for students. High dropout rates, disengaged students and a need to improve academic as well as social competitiveness have fueled the development of this model.

At Peninsula Optional, students take responsibility for their own learning through interdisciplinary projects and internships. The stakeholders maintain a shared vision of high expectations through a competency-based curriculum relevant to today's world, student centered learning through individual learning plans, core values supported through personal, social, service learning and a family centered learning environment.

A small high school housing up to 40 students in grades 9 and 10 during the first year of operation, Peninsula Optional seeks students of all backgrounds on the conviction that diverse populations learn best together. Admission is by lottery and all students are eligible to apply. The student-teacher ratio provides for personalization and students have an advisor that works with them throughout each year.

The educational program is delivered through six key processes: individualization, basic studies, project based units, community immersion, technological literacy and advisory.

Students focus on themes of current relevance tying historical and scientific studies to each. Block scheduling provides additional opportunities for students in Math and English skills. Coursework meets all of the District's credit requirements.

As the 9th and 10th grade students move into the 11th and 12th grades, students will focus their studies on projects they choose. Student's internships will give them hands on exploration, monitored by the employer, teachers and families.

Community involvement is essential both in and out of the school. The campus will serve as a community-learning center for all students.

Other Pertinent Facts

Academic Calendar

Peninsula Optional will follow the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District board approved calendar for start and end dates, vacations and holidays.

Students will complete a fall semester prior to winter break and a spring semester, which will begin in February. A 20-day Interim during the month of January is available for students to pursue elective courses. Report cards will be issued only at the end of each semester. Progress reports will be available on line and can be reviewed by the student and family at any time.

Daily Schedule

Peninsula Optional will begin the school day as early at 7:45am and continue to 2:30pm.

Interim Studies

Interim Studies will be used as a time students can focus on one area of study of special interest. Interim Studies are equivalent to electives. This is also a time for students to "catch-up" on specific skills, specialized courses, and/or have tutors available to assist them in meeting their developmental standards toward success.

Alternative Education Options

Independent Studies: Technology has provided opportunities for students to supplement their in school course work with on-line courses, partnered courses with other schools and districts, as well, as studies in conjunction with colleges and universities.

Outside Supports

Students will be provided with extra support both within the team and outside of the classroom from tutors, teachers and other helpers, including peers and adults from the community. Tutors will be available at the school during various hours.

Education for the Next Generation