

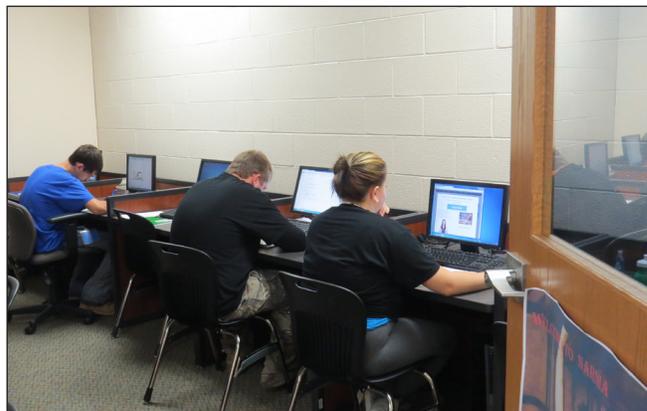
Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Sept. 4, 2015

A few students were puzzled after picking up their class schedules for the year and learning they had something called “Plato” for half of the day.



Plato is the online-learning program we’re using this year and it’s helping more than a dozen students get where they need to be in time for their senior year.



Students work on assignments in the Plato online-learning classroom.



Principal Shara Cochenour reviewed all the applications of students who were denied acceptance because of a deficiency in credits.

Shara Cochenour

Taking into account how many credits they lacked and if they had passed the Ohio Graduation

Test, Shara selected 15 students to be accepted to Pickaway-Ross who otherwise wouldn’t have been.

“Students who had already passed the OGT showed me that they were definitely capable of doing the work,” Shara said. “They took the time to apply to one of our programs so something about our school definitely clicked with them.”



Hope Parks

These students spend the morning in their labs and the afternoon in the Plato classroom with teacher Hope Parks working on English, math, social studies, science and electives.

Having just started the school year, Hope said she’s helping students get on board with the Plato program, which has more quizzes within each subject than last year’s online-learning program.

“I’m helping them a lot to develop note-taking skills,” Hope said, “because they need those for the quizzes.”

The goal is that the students will have completed the coursework to get the necessary credits so they will be joining their senior class next year and be on track to graduate.

But Shara said some students could get caught up by the second semester.

“We want them back in the regular classroom, of course,” Shara said.

Shara’s dedication to the credit-recovery program is evident, not just in how she selected the students, but also in her follow-up with them.

“I try to check on them daily, see how they’re doing,” she said. “I think that is a positive for them, to know that someone is interested in how they’re progressing.”

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