



How Western New York Maritime Charter School is Leveraging Dual Enrollment

A FOCUS ON ADDRESSING TEACHER SHORTAGES

Western New York Maritime Charter School (WNYMCS) curriculum emphasizes Academic Excellence, Character Development, Physical Development, and Leadership Development. In an effort to fulfill this commitment, WNYMCS entered a partnership with Acadeum to ensure students can study whatever they want without being limited by the teachers in their town. "I used Acadeum to access online courses for my students when I was the Dean at a nearby college. After joining Maritime, I realized the same college-level courses could be used for my high school students as dual enrollment," Marie Larcara, Ed.D, Dual Enrollment Coordinator. "As a small charter school, we strive to innovate with college opportunities. While we have great local community colleges, their version of dual enrollment requires that we send the student to their campus, or they accredit our teachers if qualified. So, this past semester, my students took over 20 college courses from 7 different institutions.

In the first year of the partnership, WNYMCS even enrolled a staff member in a course via Acadeum. "In addition to the students, we also had our school nurse take online courses to advance her career." Dr. Larcara noted. "As a charter school, our educators, like our students, can face barriers to accessing certificates or completing their degrees. Through Acadeum, we can improve the college and career options for everyone in our school."

"We have seen an increase across the nation of teachers leaving the profession and colleges and universities having fewer teachers enroll in their education programs. As a result, schools need to be creative with staffing, and using Acadeum has provided our charter school with incredible opportunities for online courses to secure dual enrollment credit. Through Acadeum, dozens of students took online courses this semester from six different institutions while working within their own study halls during their regular schedule. Our parents and students are excited to see college credit awarded in such an innovative way."

Rick Jetter, Ph.D., Assistant Head of Schools, WNY Maritime Charter School

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