

Berks County Intermediate Unit — Reading, Pennsylvania

Achieving academic goals with Imagine Edgenuity

TAKEAWAY:

Students of all ages reach their academic goals in online classes taught by extraordinary teachers.

Flexibility = Accessibility

“Traditional school isn’t working” for some students, says Marcelle McGhee, Berks Online Learning’s program administrator. That’s why Berks County Intermediate partnered with Imagine Instructional Services to support select Pennsylvania school districts in providing online learning opportunities.

- The first summer program focused mainly on credit recovery classes, but interest in the program soared from students and families who weren’t just looking for credit recovery. The program then began to offer initial credit options via accelerated summer courses.
- **Why it matters:** advanced students appreciate the opportunity to prepare for the upcoming year or to get ahead on credits, while students who previously struggled in school can work through courses at their own pace and feel successful in their education.

1,200

the number of students enrolled
in online courses as of 2021

11

the number of years the
program has been running

200

the number of different
courses offered in grades K–12

For every student, McGhee considers their backstory and specific needs. If she learns they have an IEP, require remediation, or may benefit from other supports, she will download the course’s scope and sequence and work with the Special Education Manager or course teacher to ensure the student’s needs are met.

“It’s all about flexibility and being able to customize,” McGhee says.



Virtual teachers' real-life connections are the 'secret sauce'

Online learning might seem impersonal, but virtual instructors create bonds with students just like they would in a physical classroom. The addition of Imagine Instructional Services virtual teachers alongside Berks County IU staff means every student receives support and encouragement from highly qualified, state-certified teachers.

- “Can I just say how fantastic the [virtual] teachers are? They are the secret sauce to my program’s success,” gushes McGhee. “Parents regularly comment on how much they and their students love the teachers.”
- **Why it matters:** a strong student-teacher relationship is a key indicator of student success.

Students feel comfortable asking for help — on topics ranging from log-in issues to understanding a challenging concept — because Imagine Instructional Services teachers are “open [to it] and available,” says McGhee. They even reach out to parents or guardians to help them understand the program and platform.

- With a variety of support options available — attending office hours, scheduling one-on-one time with the teacher, or receiving on-demand tutoring from Imagine Instructional Services’ concept coaches — students never have to struggle alone.
- After gaining access to the family portal to stay up to date on student activities and grades, McGhee ensures parents or guardians know they are active members of their student’s support team too.



No more interrupted learning

With a well-established virtual program in place, schools partnering with Berks Online Learning were in a good position when they closed in March of 2020 — they “just had to coordinate and enroll massive amounts of students,” says McGhee.

- Elementary students had a harder time adjusting to online learning, but the relationships the Imagine Instructional Services virtual teachers cultivated with them kept them engaged and provided a sense of stability in an incredibly uncertain time.
- **Why it matters:** a seamless transition means the learning, growing, and relationship-building that started in person can continue in the virtual classroom.

Tell us your Imagine Learning success story!
Contact us at <https://bit.ly/3CTZ4FW>.