

Career-Focused Blended Learning Built on Strategic Partnerships

Career-focused, hands-on learning and strong student engagement in online courses drive success in a flexible, blended model.





Keith Marsh's vision of a school that combined online and hands-on learning opportunities came to fruition when he launched Indiana Agriculture & Technology School (IATS) in 2018. Focused on agriculture and technology sciences, the charter school offers career pathways through partnerships with agribusiness and corporations.

Indiana Agriculture uses Imagine Edgenuity as its core curriculum and enhances it with hands-on farm experiences, specialized courses like robotics and welding, and the chance to earn certifications through the school's Agriculture Pathways or Drone Certification Program.

- “Every student here has an individual plan. That’s why our kids do so well,” said Keith Marsh, Executive Director of Indiana Agriculture & Technology School.

Engaging, flexible learning model that thrived through disruption

Because of the school's blended learning structure, learning didn't change much when COVID-19 shuttered schools across the country in March of 2020.

- Indiana Agriculture students continued working on their Imagine Edgenuity curriculum from home and joined Imagine School Services teachers for online interactive whiteboard sessions as needed.
- “The [Imagine] Edgenuity teachers are connected with kids, and that engagement has grown immensely over the years,” said Marsh. Additionally, Marsh explained that they “have designed an engaging, self-paced program” where students are motivated to complete their courses.
- **Why it matters:** “We’ve benefitted immensely,” he continued, “because [Imagine] Edgenuity isn’t a one-size-fits-all solution. That’s why this year’s academic data on student’s performance is rockin’.”



Virtual learning isn't a bad word.

.....

KEITH M., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IATS

Innovative use of livestreaming and video archives for scalable learning

Not wanting students to miss out on the hands-on learning experience, Indiana Agriculture got creative by livestreaming activities on the farm. This method was so successful that they plan to continue to use video to scale up their capacity and build a curriculum archive.

- Teachers can record routine procedures like inoculating livestock as well as unique and often unpredictable teaching moments like the birth of an animal. They can then be incorporated into the curriculum, regardless of when a student takes the course.

- **Why it matters:** “The goal was always to grow slowly and deliberately to ensure our students are getting the best experience possible,” said Marsh. The team sees the video archive as a way to scale consistent, engaging learning experiences and possibly expand with satellite campuses focused on areas like greenhouse production and goat farming.

Engagement first: building meaningful connections in online learning

“The key thing that makes our program work is student engagement. They’re not just online by themselves. They’re engaging with [Imagine] Edgenuity teachers, watching livestreams, attending Zoom classes with our teachers, and visiting the campus (when appropriate),” said Marsh.

- Marsh emphasized the importance of the teacher-student relationship: “When people talk about kids losing learning because they’re on a virtual platform, it’s not because of the platform, it’s because the student is not engaged.”
- Through its evolving partnership with Imagine Edgenuity, Indiana Agriculture has also amplified the resources available to students with special needs: “We don’t give up on kids,” said Marsh, who added that if a student is willing to put in the work, “we stick with them and give them the tools to succeed.”

“We want to set the standard for this type of program,” said Marsh, who emphasized that “Virtual learning is going to continue to grow across school communities — and students can be successful in this platform if we engage and support them appropriately.”



Tell us your Imagine Learning success story! Contact us here.
imaginelearning.click/success-stories

877-725-4257 • solutions@imaginelearning.com

