

Classical Academies — San Diego, California

Providing Flexibility, Accountability, and Emotional Competency With Imagine Edgenuity

TAKEAWAY: Charter school uses Imagine Edgenuity in four innovative ways to provide flexible options for a wide range of students.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1999, Classical Academies serves 4,200 K–12 students in three independent public charter schools in North San Diego County, California. The organization’s mission is to prepare students for college, career, and citizenship by partnering with families, offering rigorous academics, fostering social and emotional learning, and providing academic choice.

PROVIDING MORE FLEXIBLE LEARNING OPTIONS

Classical Academies enrolls a diverse array of students, ranging from homeschoolers, athletes, and actors to gifted, traditional, remedial, at-risk, and medically fragile students.

- To provide more flexible learning options that would better differentiate instruction and create more time for conferencing with students and parents, they partnered with Imagine Edgenuity — finding confidence in its research base, breadth of course offerings, and actionable data.
- **WHY IT MATTERS:** the wide variety of courses enable them to support struggling students while also providing appropriate challenges to accelerated learners.
 - “At Classical Academies, we recognize that students have varying abilities, talents, and interests. We strongly believe that instruction should be tailored to each student’s unique needs,” said Dr. Stacey Perez, Online Principal.
 - “Edgenuity’s content and learning management system allowed us to truly personalize learning without compromising the rigor or integrity of instruction.”

School Demographics

White	77%
Hispanic	11%
African American	6%
Other	6%
Special Education	9%
Economically Disadvantaged	10%

“Edgenuity’s content and learning management system allowed us to truly personalize learning without compromising the rigor or integrity of instruction.”

• • •
Dr. Stacey Perez, Online Principal

FLEXIBILITY IN ACTION



Four-day school week program

High school students use Imagine Edgenuity courses for approximately 60 minutes per day, per subject



Blended instructional program

High school students use Imagine Edgenuity courses three days a week at home and receive face-to-face workshop instruction two days a week at school



Online learning program

Students complete Imagine Edgenuity courses at home and meet with a teacher every five weeks



Independent study program

Full-time independent study students are supported by certified teachers

A core belief of Classical Academies is that schools should offer flexible scheduling of courses. That's why they offer Imagine Edgenuity in four distinct settings.

A Typical Day (Blended Instruction Program):

- Most instruction takes place in cybercafés with comfortable chairs, sofas, and whiteboard tables.
- Half the time, students work on Imagine Edgenuity courses via Chromebooks — independently or with the available highly qualified teachers, tutors, and academic coaches.
- The remainder of the time is spent engaging in collaborative learning projects, attending science labs, and receiving small-group or one-on-one instruction.

BUILDING EMOTIONAL COMPETENCY

Because they “know from Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs that students must have their basic physiological and psychological needs met before they can really advance cognitively,” said Perez, teachers prioritize developing students’ social and emotional competencies first.

- “Our staff work deliberately with students to create a sense of belonging, build their trust, and boost their confidence. We meet the student needs when they walk in the door.”

HOW THEY DO IT: at the start of the school year, each student meets with an academic coach, who discusses their past educational experiences, fears, current expectations, and future aspirations.

- They develop an individualized graduation plan and set academic and personal goals.
- Teachers intentionally and explicitly integrate character education into face-to-face instruction.
- Through specialized lessons, assemblies, community service, and field trips, students are taught to do the right thing when no one is watching, learn from mistakes, keep a positive attitude, take ownership of feelings and actions, and try new strategies to achieve a goal.

EMPOWERING ACCOUNTABILITY WITH A GROWTH MINDSET

Because they believe learning should be competency-based, students must consistently show mastery of 80 percent of course content to progress.

HOW THEY DO IT: educators encourage students to have a growth mindset. They help students focus on the processes that lead to learning, such as putting forth effort and trying new strategies.

- Students are explicitly taught how to set goals, take notes, determine the importance of content material, and actively engage in Imagine Edgenuity.
- Teachers meet weekly to discuss student progress, achievement, and engagement using the data in Imagine Edgenuity's learning management system. Teachers then meet one-on-one with students to offer remediation and support.
- "Our teachers love that they can use Imagine Edgenuity's dashboard to show students how their hard work paid off," said Perez. "We have students who, when they get 80 percent on a quiz, say they can do better and want to try for 90 percent."



Families are an integral part of student success — including supervising, communicating, and aiding in daily progress.

- Parents and guardians are given access to Imagine Edgenuity courses and are even encouraged to attend classes and lead activities with teachers.
- "Our belief is that a partnership with parents can positively impact student learning," said Perez. "We try to provide the tools and programming to make sure that is a reality."

GENERATING RESULTS

Student engagement continues to rise as students find a comfortable and safe learning environment, as well as quality college prep courses through Imagine Edgenuity. Students who have struggled with a traditional public-school setting are now successful in this environment.

81%

Percent of students who earned a score of 3 or higher on their AP tests

99%

Percent of students who graduated on time