

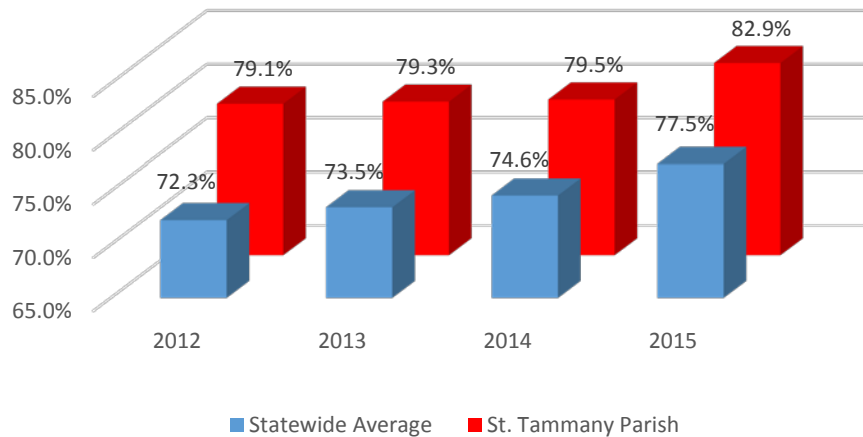
## NEW INITIATIVE

**BLENDED LEARNING:** Beginning in the fall of 2017, the district will be expanding its use of Odysseyware to offer a customized, **blended learning solution to more than a thousand high school students in Special Education.** This initiative will personalize learning for students as well as assist them to accelerate their individual progress.

Odysseyware gives coordinator Toni Rich the tools and flexibility to address, with customized and consistent learning, the challenges of:

- 500+ students a year
- Homebound learners
- Students in special education

STPPS Graduation rate increased  
4.8% over the last 4 years



## CASE STUDY

### Saint Tammany Parish, LA

Increased consistency and access for students with Odysseyware® digital curriculum.

The A3 Virtual Academy program provides courses and opportunities for credit recovery for a range of students---including struggling and homebound learners.

#### DISTRICT:

Saint Tammany Parish Public School System

#### LOCATION:

Saint Tammany Parish, LA

#### STUDENT POPULATION:

- 38,681 students
- 44% economically disadvantaged students
- 24% students served by Special Education

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The dramatic impact of the credit recovery program is reflected in its 88 percent passing rate

## CHALLENGES

The St. Tammany Parish Public School System (STPPS) boasts an “A” grade from the state’s department of education, as well as numerous honors and recognitions that reflect its academic success with students. Nevertheless, the STPPS still faces many challenges. **With a large number of high school students expelled for behavior problems each year, it was necessary to find a way to ensure these learners could obtain the credits they needed to graduate** with their peers and go on to college and careers. Customizing the learning pathways for a large number of students in Special Education programs has been a difficult and time-consuming task for teachers.

## SOLUTIONS

The A3 Virtual Academy program was created 12 years ago to assist with the credit recovery of secondary students districtwide. Today, Odysseyware digital curriculum, course consistency, **and online access maximize teacher time and give students better learning options.**

**CONSISTENCY:** According to current Virtual Academy Coordinator, Toni Rich, the Virtual Academy program has undergone growing pains, including teachers tasked with crafting a whole new digital curriculum for the subjects they teach. “Individual teachers were cobbling together their own online resources and the

result was a somewhat inconsistent quality,” says Rich.

Three years ago, the Virtual Academy began implementing Odysseyware, which solved the problem of inconsistency across courses. All students now receive **the same curriculum in English, Social Studies, Science, Math, College and Career readiness and other areas.**

**CREDIT RECOVERY:** With 24/7 online access to courses, Virtual Academy students have the flexibility to **complete activities at times convenient to them, which can accelerate completion from 18 to nine weeks.** “Students are tech-savvy and engaged,” says Rich. “With this online one-on-one solution, behavior problems and socialization are no longer issues.” Students especially enjoy Odysseyware videos, PowerPoint explanations and the ability to choose the text-to-speech voice that best suits them.

**The dramatic impact of the credit recovery program is reflected in its 88 percent passing rate within a district where the overall graduation rate is 80 percent.** This has allowed many formerly at-risk students to “walk the stage” with their graduating peers.

**HOMEBOUND STUDENTS:** Students who are sick or homebound because of physical impairments or other reasons can also **keep up with their classes through the Virtual Academy’s online class offerings.**



*“Students are tech-savvy and engaged. With this online one-on-one solution, behavior problems and socialization are no longer issues.”*

**Toni Rich**  
A3 Virtual Academy  
Coordinator



*“If the district did not provide the A3 Virtual Academy, many students would go without receiving a diploma. Being able to graduate with peers gives them the self-esteem to become productive members of the community.”*

**Toni Rich**  
A3 Virtual Academy  
Coordinator

