

## The Athens Academy Story

### Cogent Education's Interactive Cases Aid Athens Academy in Teaching Higher Order Thinking Skills and Engaging Students in Real World Scenarios

#### Athens Academy

Athens Academy is a coeducational, independent, college preparatory day school that offers innovative approaches to teaching and learning, and seeks students who can benefit from a challenging academic program. Staff are highly devoted to the needs of their students. Every student graduates from Athens Academy and is accepted to college.

#### School Profile

Students: 957, High School: 286

Grades: K-12

Suburban

<http://www.athensacademy.org>

#### Student Population

2% Hispanic

8% Asian

5% African-American

84% Caucasian



#### Expectations are High at Athens Academy

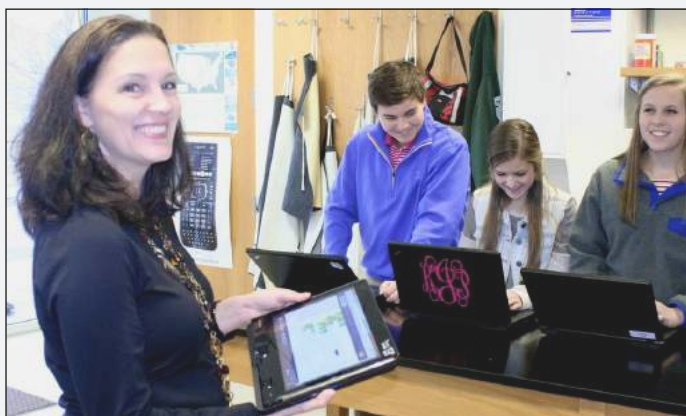
NABT outstanding biology teacher of the year award winner, Dr. Anna Scott said that expectations are high for her students to perform at Athens Academy. She explains that her students are bright, but even in her ideal situation, she finds teaching and evaluating critical thinking skills challenging. However, with Athens Academy 1:1 laptop initiative, students have more access to technology and are able to use the Interactive Cases to realize their decisions in the simulations matter.

**“I’m pretty peppy and fun, and I’m able to typically get results, but this was different! I saw kids engaged who weren’t going to be if it were just me.”**

- Dr. Anna Scott, Science Teacher (pictured with her students)

#### Students Are Plugged In.

Dr. Scott talks about the energy kids have today and her attempt to try and harness that energy for good rather than bad. In her class, she has her students put on goggles and aprons for the lab, tells them to take out their cell phone, take a selfie, put it on Instagram and then put it away. Right away her students know she is speaking their language. “This is how they are wired.” She explains that the Interactive Cases capitalize on what students are already really good at, and then channels that content to what she needs them to be really good at - biology.



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## Interactive Cases Engage Students With Real World Scenarios

In the Osmosis Interactive Case, students learn about osmosis by trying to save the life of a calf named Clark who is having a seizure. This real world scenario effectively engages students in their learning, and the virtual environments allow students to see the “invisible”, namely cells, molecules and ions in a dynamic and interactive format. When they are treating Clark, they can see, in real-time, if their choice to treat him is going well or not.

**“My kids’ eyes had this ‘GET OUT OF TOWN, THIS IS REALITY TV BUT FOR SCHOOL’ look. A look that seemed to say, ‘I’m engaged in something that’s happening right this moment, I’m empathetic to the cow, I’m invested, I’m going to stay with this, and I’m going to finish it.’ ”**

- Dr. Anna Scott, Science Teacher



## Making the Most of Time

Dr. Scott said her students lead very busy lives. For example, the star running back might be the first chair in the school orchestra on violin. She said with such busy schedules and high expectations, it's important that she makes the most of her time with her students. This is why she values Cogent's SABLE online analysis system. SABLE is defined as a Skills and Assessment Based Learning Environment. SABLE monitors students' critical thinking skills in real time and identifies personal strengths and areas of difficulty for individual students. Before SABLE, she explains that she might not get her student data for two or three weeks, and by then it was difficult to remember what they were doing.

**“With SABLE, it's like being able to sit next to each student simultaneously and know whether they're getting it or not. I no longer have to tote a stack of papers! I've got my Tablet computer and I can login anywhere and communicate with my students, like while I am having my car serviced. I can indicate where they need to give a little more thought. Before, I was writing on an essay paper and 15% of my students left an important piece out of their answer. I had to write the same comment on each paper and it was tiring. With SABLE, I can copy and paste my comments to students and be much more efficient.”**

- Dr. Anna Scott, Science Teacher (Pictured above with her student)