

Worth County Schools

Virtual Learning Option Guidance



The purpose of this document is to provide answers to some of the questions posed by parents and members of the community. If you have a question or concern that is not addressed in this document. Please submit those questions using the link at the end of the document. We also request that you give us at least 24-48 hours to respond to your question.

IS ATTENDING SCHOOL ONLINE OR VIRTUALLY RIGHT FOR YOU?

Attending school *VIRTUALLY* is a great option for many students and families. We are striving to provide an instructional alternative opportunity and pathway for those not comfortable with attending school in the traditional face-to face format. While it is a great option for many, virtual school is not the perfect alternative for every student or family.

Characteristics of a Successful Virtual Student

It is the expectation that students in the Worth County Virtual Academy will perform to the best of their ability in their virtual coursework at all times. Students should be ready to take responsibility for their own learning and the successful virtual students are able to do the following:

- Apply themselves to their studies in a focused and serious manner
- Work hard and become engaged in their lessons and activities
- Improve areas of personal weakness while capitalizing on personal strengths
- Maintain an active study regimen and stay on top of all assignment deadlines
- Recognize when assistance is needed and is able to seek that assistance in a timely manner
- Establish a strong communication line with instructors and mentor
- Be goal oriented and have a desire to learn and succeed
- Be self-disciplined with regards to study habits
- Frequently get support from their parent and/or learning coach
- Work independently
- Manage time effectively
- Navigate on the computer
- Proficiently read and write

CHARACTERISTICS OF ONLINE LEARNING SUCCESS

- **Be an independent learner**-An independent learner is not someone that does not need help from those around them, but it is someone that is active in the academic process. Independent learners take action, they think critically, they want to learn for themselves and use those around them as a resource to break through the problems they encounter in the educational process. Independent learners look to learn from situations around them, they look to learn from people around them, and they never make the excuse that there is nothing to be gained from a situation, even if the situation is one they have experienced before.
- **Goal-oriented**-This may be the most obvious of the all the characteristics. Someone that is goal-oriented has a vision for who they want to be and what they want to do. They know there are steps that need to be accomplished to get to that ultimate goal, and they set out to accomplish larger goals in that step-by-step process. This is the basic format of online learning. Students who can follow the instructions, complete the work as asked, and move on to the next assignment are just accomplishing mini goal after mini goal.
- **Set a schedule and keep to it**-This is similar to the goal-oriented concept. Most teachers offer students a pacing guide, which is an outline for how quickly the students should be progressing through the class.

As long as students stick to that schedule, at no point in the semester should they feel overwhelmed. A flexible learning schedule does not mean you can wait until the last two weeks of the semester and turn in everything at one time. This is problematic for a number of reasons. It is stressful for the student and teacher, the student likely is not learning and retaining any of the information as they are rushing to complete all of the work at the end of the semester, and it does not allow the teacher to give feedback that the student can then grow from moving forward. If students just set a schedule and move forward meeting those goals and deadlines, they will complete all work, grow from the experience, and feel far less stress at the end of the semester.

- **Taking responsibility for the learning process-** Think back to the first characteristic – being an independent learner. An independent learner will inherently take responsibility for the learning process. They expect to push themselves in their academic process and use the resources provided as a guide for learning. This is a characteristic that is needed at the collegiate level.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AS A WORTH COUNTY VIRTUAL LEARNER?

Virtual/Online learning is not for every child, but it can be great for many. WCS strongly urges parents to educate themselves prior to selecting this option so here are a few FAQ's

HOW WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE INSTRUCTION?

Virtual instruction will be via online curriculum through APEX learning in grades 6-12, and via Edgenuity in grades K-5. Both platforms provide video and animated lessons followed by assignments, quizzes, and tests for students to complete and submit. Students can communicate with a teacher through the platform, but there is no real-time teacher instructing via computer. Lessons may also be supplemented using other core and supplemental resources found in the appendix.

See links below for more information:

Grades 6-12 APEX Learning

Take a tour of APEX learning using the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DroGfyrfieo>

Grades K-5 Edgenuity:

The Edgenuity Student Experience- Please use the link below to take a tour of the Edgenuity Student Experience. This is a seven minute video designed to show you what to expect as a student user.

<https://www.edgenuity.com/video-library/?vid=5978276525001>

WHAT CALENDAR WILL MY CHILD FOLLOW?

The WCVA will follow the Worth County School District Calendar, and model as close as possible to the school day structure.

Full time Student Status

All students up to 18 years of age must be enrolled full time. Every student that enrolls at WCVA will receive a full-time schedule of classes (4-5 courses a semester) and be expected to complete his/her classes on time. However, sometimes when students are enrolled full-time, they do not attend school full-time. To be considered a student who attends full-time, he/she:

- Students should work approximately 25 hours a week (5 hours a day) on courses.
- Students must maintain weekly 2-way communication with their virtual learning teacher.
- Students must never fall more than 25% behind in each class.
- Please adhere to the course/class pacing guide.

Virtual Academy Registration and Commitment Form

We are requesting parents make an official commitment that their child would participate in the Worth County Schools Virtual Academy by completing the application for enrollment. Parents are asked to complete a form for each student in the home. ***Decisions must be made by July 17 by 6:00 pm.*** Students in families who do not select an option by July 17 by 6:00 pm will be assigned to in-person instruction. Families will receive verification of their selection for each child. Please be informed, students will attend school based on the option chosen for all of first semester (through December). A change may take place after the 1st 9 weeks if there is a hardship that needs to be considered. The district will decide if the hardship is reasonable.

HOW WILL ATTENDANCE BE MONITORED IN THE VIRTUAL LEARNING OPTION?

Absence Policy

WCVA employs performance-based attendance. This means that students are expected to make adequate progress in their classes each week to be considered present in their classes. Students who are 25% behind are considered absent each day that they do not complete the daily target amount of coursework that is set forth by their curriculum provider. Additionally, students will be marked absent for any week they miss their 2-way communication with their mentor.

Truancy Policy

All students, however, are required to meet certain time, contact, and class completion criteria to not be considered truant. A student is truant when he/she fails to make adequate progress in his/her class (es) without a documented explanation, such as a medical reason. A student will be considered truant when he/she falls behind by more than 25% in their combined classes and/or misses 2 consecutive weeks of 2-way communication. WCS district attendance protocols will be followed for any student who do not meet the virtual attendance guidelines.

WHAT IF MY STUDENTS HAS MEDICAL CONCERNS?

WCVA understands that many students enroll with us for a variety of reasons including medical, emotional, and psychological concerns. We are pleased to offer a more flexible schedule than a traditional school, with different supports to help all of these students succeed. However, students in this capacity will be required to show that they meet certain standards in their classes/grade levels in order to be promoted or receive credit. If students have chronic absenteeism due to medical, emotional, or psychological reasons they must provide documentation in order to be excused for those absences. Chronic absenteeism is defined as having more than 10 absent days per semester. If students are unable to provide documentation, they must adhere to regular policies and requirements. Students who provide consistent documentation for severe cases will still be required to show proficiency by completing a set amount of work defined by their teacher.

HOW WILL MY CHILD COMMUNICATE ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED?

Communication Expectations

Due to the nature of virtual learning, it is imperative that students communicate via google classroom, and email. Your student may contact their facilitator for assistance through a Google Meet or hangout teleconference. This feature will enable the student and teacher to communicate. If you child's device does not have a camera a smartphone will work for the purpose of obtaining instructional assistance. Failure to communicate may result in the poor student performance. Students will communicate use both Worth County Schools email accounts, and Google classroom posts announcements. Students are expected to:

- Check their Worth County School email account daily and respond to class teachers.
- Participate in student conference, and class meeting using Google Meets with their teachers/facilitators.
- Read and respond to texts from class teachers/ staff
- Discuss specific details on what is being learned in his/her classes

WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF VIRTUAL LEARNERS?

Family involvement is vital to our students' success at WCVA! At every grade level, parents/guardians are expected to stay up-to-date with their child's progress. Below are the parent/guardian roles and responsibilities:

PRIMARY / ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parents are expected to have a high level of student oversight. The parent is the child's primary support in learning, though the teacher is available for guidance. Parents should expect to:

- Oversee their student's schoolwork
- Set the daily schedule with varied activities and breaks for the required hours
- Assist with lessons and communicate frequently with the teacher
- Help monitor student progress and comprehension
- Commit to weekly meetings if necessary with the virtual learning teacher to review progress and share observations.
- Have a reliable email address.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle school students are transitioning to more independent learning, so the parent's time commitment is 1-3 hours per day. *Parents are expected to read the daily/weekly progress report emails, to know the status of their child's classes, as well as monitor how often and for how long their child is working online.* Though students are expected to maintain contact with their assigned mentor, parents will also have communication with their child's mentor, especially when concerns or problems arise. Middle school parents/guardians will be able to schedule parent/teacher conferences virtually.

HIGH SCHOOL

Parents have minimal time commitment with their child's schoolwork, but are still expected to read the daily/weekly progress reports, and to know the status of their child's classes. *We request all parents to provide a good email address, sign up for a parent portal account to check their child's online school attendance, grades and parents are encouraged to contact their child's virtual learning teacher.* Parents/guardians must also attend virtual or face to face parent/teacher conferences when needed or requested.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parent communication applies to students under the age of 18. Parents will be contacted when students don't meet the minimum criteria set forth in the attendance and truancy guidelines. If a student's grade is not passing (under 70%), WCVA will reach out to parents/guardians to schedule a meeting either face to face or virtual at least every other week to reevaluate plans for their child.

- If a student's pacing is more than 25% behind in a course, parents/guardians will be notified.
- If a student is not adhering to his/her weekly communication, WCVA will contact the parents/guardians in order to establish a contract with the student.
- If WCVA has reason to believe a student's family situation has changed, and that change may disrupt the student's education, WCVA will reach out to parents/guardians to help minimize the educational disruption.

WHAT MATERIALS ARE SUPPLIES WILL MY CHILD NEED?

All K-12 WCVA students will need access to a device and reliable internet access to participate in the virtual learning platform. A device is defined as a (computer, Chromebook, some tablets, etc.) *The use of a smartphone to access and complete virtual learning activities is not recommended.* Your student may need or use earbuds or headphones in some lessons.

WILL MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN MANDATORY STATE TESTING?

If you are a full-time student taking core classes (ELA, math, science, social studies), you are required to take the appropriate grade-level state assessments. The State of GA has requested a waiver from standardized testing for the 2020-2021 school term. The waiver has not been approved yet but we anticipate its approval. In the future, you may be requested to appear at the designated Worth County Schools location, date, and time to take your state mandated assessment. To ensure we are meeting student needs, reducing achievement gaps, and extending learning it will be necessary to conduct universal screenings to measure growth and performance during the year. Your child may be asked meet at a designated location for the following universal assessments: Reading Inventory, Math Inventory, and Dibels Next.

WHO WILL BE MY CHILD'S INSTRUCTOR?

Currently, we do not have an accurate number of students to determine and designate teachers. We are working diligently to ensure your child will have a facilitator from the district, and possibly from the specific grade band they are assigned.

How will my child know how to use the digital learning platform?

Each digital learning platform has a user tutorial and help feature to show students and parents how to navigate through the platform. We will be adding a virtual learning academy page to the district website where we conduct parent/student orientation.

COURSES, GRADES, AND GRADING POLICY

Course Pacing:

Each class/course assignments will be aligned to the GSE. Your child's grade level facilitator will develop a pacing guide to help ensure your student stays on track for success.

Course Changes (9-12) ONLY

All students will have 5 school days from the semester start date to request any changes, including additions, drops, and program requests. All requests must be submitted in writing via email to the student's counselor and teacher.

Grading Scale

Grades are posted as numerical averages. The percentages may reflect current work submitted, amount of coursework completed, and/or cumulative progress. The grading scale to be used:

90-100 A
80-89 B
74-79 C
70-73 D
0-69 F

Report Cards

Report cards are issued following each nine weeks' period.

Promotion/Retention Criteria:

WCVA will follow the same promotion/retention guidelines as students in the traditional school setting.

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

Will students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans receive accommodations in Worth County Virtual Academy?

All students will have access to many accommodations that naturally occur in the traditional setting. In addition, the WCVA will provide additional accommodations per a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan if the accommodation(s) is/are applicable to the online educational environment. Prior to the school year beginning, if a student with an IEP or a 504 plan wants to access Virtual Learning a meeting will be held with the parent to determine what supports are necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of students given their current circumstances.

How will Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings take place in the fall?

Worth County Schools is committed to providing families an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the special education process. Whether in-person or an alternative format, such as videoconferencing or by phone, IEP teams will partner with families to determine the most practical format to conduct IEP meetings

NON CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITES

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, DANCES, SPORTS

Worth County Virtual Academy is a program within the Worth County School District. Students enrolled in the WCVA are eligible to participate in athletics, clubs, or other extracurricular events. Students who are trying to meet NCAA requirements for a possible Division I or II scholarship should consult with their HS counselor regarding WCVA enrollment.

HOW WILL MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN BAND AND CHORUS VIRTUALLY?

Band and chorus are performance based curricular courses. The band and chorus teachers are working to create remote learning options for students. Some of the options purposed are instructional videos preloaded into their Google classroom, or scheduled Group Google Meet sessions. Please check with your child's school administer for further details.

Are the courses in the Virtual Learning Academy approved by NCAA?

Currently course taken through WVCA are not NCAA approved; however, we are in the process of initiating the approval process. If your student has aspirations of attending a Division I or Division II College on an athletic scholarship, then enrollment in WCVA at the current time is not the best option. Please check with your high school counselor as this is subject to change, upon approval.

QUESTIONS:

If you have a question or concern that is not addressed in this document. Please submit those questions using the link at the end of the document. We also request that you give us at least 24-48 hours to respond to your question.

<https://forms.gle/YFGmxc1ruobtPrGv9>

Digital Resources and Tools

		Core Materials							Supplemental Materials						Tools		
		I Station	Moby Max	Reading Inventory	Studies Weekly	APEX	Edgenuity	Math Inventory	Brain Pop	Khan Academy	Accelerated Reader	USA Test Prep	IXL	Read Works	Clever	G Suite	Chromebooks
K-2 WCPS	Language Arts/Reading	X	X						X	X	X						
	Math	X	X						X	X			X				
	Science		X						X	X							
	Social Studies		X		X				X	X							
									X								
3-5 WCES	Language Arts/Reading		X	X					X	X	X		X				
	Math		X					X	X	X			X				
	Science		X						X	X							
	Social Studies		X		X				X	X							
									X								
6-8 WCMS	Language Arts/Reading		X	X		X	X			X		X		X			
	Math		X			X	X	X		X		X					
	Science		X			X	X			X		X					
	Social Studies		X		X	X	X			X		X					
									X								
9-12 WCHS	Language Arts/Reading			X		X	X			X		X					
	Math			X		X	X	X		X		X	X				
	Science					X	X			X		X					
	Social Studies					X	X			X		X					