

May 5, 2021

RE: Remote Learning, Virtual Learning, Online Courses

We wanted to respond to a few questions about remote learning, virtual learning and online courses. As most of these discussions have generated in the last year as a result of COVID, we wanted to try and clarify some of the confusion that seems to be evident. Here are some comments about the intent of the terms and how we are using them.

Remote Learning: We are talking about the system of providing services to our students throughout the 2020-2021 school year--whether students were choosing to remote learn for an extended period of time or if a student was quarantined. These courses were taught by our general education and special education teachers. Moving forward, we will not be offering remote learning for students over an extended period of time. Teachers will still coordinate through Schoology if students need to quarantine next year.

Virtual Learning (Academy): We are using this term as a complete online learning program. It would be a separate program through I-35 where students enroll for 100% online learning. We are not recommending creating a virtual learning program at this time.

Online courses: We currently offer online courses to students throughout the day. These can be for dual enrollment, credit recovery or core offerings. Typically, juniors and seniors have more online courses for dual enrollment. If the schedule allows, we also offer online core offerings to students for one period, so they can enroll in various elective classes during the day.

Here are a few questions we received in the past couple of weeks.

- 1. Is there an option for parents to choose online learning (whether virtual or remote) for students at I-35 for the 2021-2022 school year?** At the current time, the recommendation is to not offer an option for a complete online learning program next year at Interstate 35.
- 2. If my student has to quarantine next year, what learning will be required if remote learning is not available?** Teachers will still be expected to have Schoology updated with coursework and assignments. Students will also have the option of choosing synchronous learning (refers to learning remotely at the same time it is being taught in person) during a quarantine period.
- 3. Are there core classes that my student is required to take online?** No, students are not required to take any classes online. However, students have the option to take some online classes during the in person school day including dual enrollment classes, credit recovery classes and a few core classes.
- 4. Will the possibility of a virtual academy be revisited in the future?** The need for a virtual learning academy will be evaluated periodically as we continue to evaluate our school programs. The timeline for this will be dictated by student need as the program needs to be able to sustain itself.