

September 4, 2020

Dear Virtual Learning Families,

We wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with additional and updated information as it relates to our online learning platform, Lincoln Learning. We want to first assure you that the frustrations and concerns that our parents have voiced over the past few weeks are also shared by our TSA's, building administrators, and the leadership of our Central Office administrative team. Our staff has truly been working day and night to address these issues and we have come to the realization that this program is not living up to how it was presented or promised. We are devastated that our families have had such a frustrating start to their children's school year. Please know that members of our Curriculum and Technology Departments are actively exploring alternative options for our students. We are committed to determining the best solution for our students and families as you deserve nothing less. As we explore these alternatives, we will keep you informed of any proposed options and continue to evaluate and modify the course pacing and content, troubleshoot technical problems, and determine how to customize virtual learning to meet the needs of all students.

Workbooks

The information we received about the Lincoln Learning Program emphasized that no supplemental materials or supplies were necessary for using the program. We have since learned that there are many optional materials that are helpful to using the program, particularly with young learners. Feedback from parents has demonstrated the need for printed workbooks to support our students. Workbooks are currently out of stock from Lincoln Learning, but we have secured PDF copies for our families. We shared a [document](#) containing links to the workbook files in our letter last week and have begun printing copies for families who would like them. If you would like a printed copy of the workbooks that accompany your child's courses within Lincoln Learning, please contact your child's school so they can take your request. As copies are printed, we will contact you. Please note that although these are the workbook files provided by Lincoln Learning to accompany their courses, they are not perfectly aligned to the content within the classroom and may not always match what students see on the screen. Please complete the Google Form if you would like to order [workbooks](#) for your child.

Curriculum/Pacing Update

We have been working to compare Lincoln Learning to what is happening in our classrooms. The table below states the number of lessons that will be assigned each week for students to complete. We recognize there may be situations that require modifications to this pace and schedule and TSAs can work with families and students to determine a plan.

K-1

Typically K-2 social studies and science are embedded in the English Language Arts instruction throughout the day. Therefore we have customized the lessons in social studies and science to include either 3 Social Studies or Science lessons per week.

<u>Core Content</u>	<u>Lessons per 5 days week</u>	<u>Lessons per 4 day week</u>
ELA	5	4
Math	5	4
Social Studies	3 every other week	2 every other week
Science	3 every other week	2 every other week
Unified Arts	Self paced since not required	Self paced since not required

2-5

<u>Core Content</u>	<u>Lessons per 5 days week</u>	<u>Lessons per 4 day week</u>
ELA	5	4
Math	5	4
Social Studies	Varies based on alignment to Ohio Standards	Varies based on alignment to Ohio Standards
Science	Varies based on alignment to Ohio Standards	Varies based on alignment to Ohio Standards
Unified Arts	Self paced since not required	Self paced since not required

Please know that the updates we provide are intended to address concerns and questions we receive as we work to improve our students' virtual learning experience. We recognize some individuals might have unique circumstances that need to be handled differently. As we do in traditional school, we will strive to differentiate learning, pace, and expectations based on student needs.

Attendance

Based on guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), districts and community schools should **track** attendance for all students, regardless of the mode of learning. We are developing different methods to track attendance according to the [ODE's Attendance Considerations for Remote Learning Plans](#). For Lincoln Learning, we are tracking attendance using both time participating in the program and students' lesson progress. We recognize that there are a number of hours spent on school work that may not be tracked in the online program therefore instructional hours are active hours in the program and self-directed learning hours. Specific guidelines will be published next week.

Thank you again for your feedback and patience as we work to support our virtual learners.

Respectfully,

Paul Otten
Superintendent

Bobbie Fiori
Assistant Superintendent

