

Greene County Tech
K-12 Virtual Learning Academy
2020-2021
8-28-2020

GCT believes learning should take place all the time, anywhere, and everywhere. Students and families have choices for education in an environment that works best for them, as choice is very important for 2020-2021.

Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, students in grades K-12 have the opportunity to enroll full-time in the GCT K-12 Virtual Academy (GCTVLA). Students have the opportunity to decide when and where they will learn as an alternative to on-site (face-to-face) instruction.

GCTVLA is designed to meet the needs of students who take responsibility for their own learning and who can thrive in an atmosphere in which they may work independently and at their own pace. Students in need of additional programming options, homebound students, or students in unique circumstances may thrive in the GCTVLA. This opportunity provides students to still be enrolled as a student in the Greene County Tech School District while learning in an online virtual environment.

Students will enroll in courses and electives based on state requirements and personal interests. Students have access to a variety of virtual courses for core curriculum, electives, Advance Placement (AP Courses) depending upon enrollment requests, credit recovery, tutoring, and test preparation. All courses are aligned with K-12 Arkansas learning standards and are taught by Arkansas Highly-Qualified licensed teachers, who are employed by GCT.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Request to Participate form: **Friday, July 31, 2020** is the LAST DAY to submit the Online GCTVLA Request to participate form.

[GCT Virtual Learning Academy Enrollment Form](#)

Enrollment Window: Upon enrollment into GCTVLA, students and parents will be asked to sign a [GCTVLA Contract](#).

- August 10-12, 2020:** Students turn in [Computer Acceptable Use Agreement](#) if not checking out district device and the [Student Check Out Device Agreement](#) (if applicable).
- August 24-25, 2020:** Students and parents participate in orientation sessions on-site or via Zoom meeting and pick up checked out devices, if devices needed.
- August 24, 2020:** First day of classes for the Fall 2020 semester for GCTVLA.
- September 4, 2020:** Last day to drop GCTVLA and return to blended (on-site or remote) instruction.
- November 2-13, 2020:** Enroll in GCTVLA for the Spring 2021 semester.
- November 13, 2020:** Last day to enroll in the GCTVLA for the Spring 2021 semester.
- January 4, 2021:** First day of classes for the GCTVLA for the Spring 2021 semester.
- January 13, 2021:** Last day to drop GCTVLA and return to on-site instruction for the Spring 2021 semester.
- May 27, 2021:** Last day of school for the GCTVLA.

Greene County Tech Virtual Learning Academy (GCTVLA)

GCT K-12 Virtual Learning Academy options vary depending on students' grade level and needs. GCTVLA staff meet with students and parents to design an instructional program aligned with state instructional standards to meet individual students' needs. Courses are offered in partnership with the Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC) and online providers such as Lincoln Learning.

GCT students enroll in online classes aligned with standards required by the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Full time GCTVLA students complete their work at home, online, under the direction of a teacher employed by GCT. Learning will be new skills, not review skills.

Delivery of instruction will vary depending on the grade level and course. In general, content will be delivered through online platforms. Teachers may meet with students via Zoom and will be accessible via Virtual Office Hours. Assignments may be completed within the virtual setting and/or submitted electronically. All material taught will be new, grade-level material and grades will be recorded in Eschool.

Students may begin to earn credit for high school in grade 8 (Pre-AP Algebra 1 course). Students in grades 9-12 will take courses for credit that count toward graduation. Students will earn graduation credits at the same rate and in the same manner as traditional classes taught on site at GCT. Students in grades 9-12 will enroll in a minimum of six (6) periods and a maximum of eight (8) periods each year with careful attention given to graduation requirements to ensure on-time graduation. Refer to the GCT High School Parent Student Handbook for graduation requirements located on the district's website.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

To enroll in GCTVLA, complete and return the Online GCTVLA enrollment form [GCTVLA Enrollment Form](#) by **July 31, 2020**. The GCTVLA enrollment form will be reviewed and a representative from the District will contact parents/guardians to schedule an academic review meeting to discuss student needs, interests, provide assistance in designing an individual learning plan, and enroll the student in courses. Students and parents will sign a [GCTVLA Contract](#). The last day to drop from GCTVLA is Friday, **September 4, 2020**. After the drop date, students must remain enrolled in the GCTVLA for the entire semester.

The district provides supplies for most of the GCTVLA courses. Supplies for elective courses are provided by the family. Students will turn in the [Student Computer Use Agreement](#) to enroll in GCTVLA and if a device is checked out, students will also turn in a [Student Device Check Out Agreement](#) between **August 10-24, 2020** to the building students are enrolled.

Just like on-site courses, virtual learning academy courses may become full. Early enrollment is encouraged to ensure the courses are available. Enrollment in virtual courses is NOT guaranteed; but will be based on need and class size.

Students enrolled in GCTVLA must complete the semester with the option of changing at the end of the semester. If a student returns to on-site learning, he/she will be placed where a class seat is available.

SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION

If your child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 Plan, LPAC, or receives G/T, OT, PT, Speech, Mental Health Services, or dyslexia services, please contact the administration of the building of which your child will be enrolled.

Each students' individual needs are discussed at the academic review meeting to ensure the student receives the necessary services. For example, if a student attends a resource classroom for literacy, the student continues to get support from GCTVLA.

COURSE PARTICIPATION

GCTVLA is a fit for some learners; but not for others. Students likely to be successful in full-time, online learning are self-motivated, self-advocates with strong verbal and written communication skills and strong time management. It is not essential for students to have these skills to be enrolled in the GCTVLA, as students can learn these skills and characteristics while participating in virtual learning. To determine if GCTVLA is a right fit for the student, have them take the self assessment linked below.

[GCTVLA K-6 Self Assessment Form](#)

[GCTVLA 7-12 Self Assessment Form](#)

Virtual learning courses are available in semester and year-long formats. Students are expected to complete the coursework within the allotted time frame. When students fall behind in their coursework, teachers will contact the students and/or parents. When students earn a grade below C, GCTVLA teachers will contact parents.

Students not completing their work will conference with GCTVLA staff to determine where help may be offered and if a virtual learning setting is the appropriate placement. If students continue not to complete work, procedures similar to traditional courses are followed and may result in a failing grade. When students fail virtual courses, their academic records and individual learning plans are reviewed to determine if participation in GCTVLA should be continued or if they should return to regular onsite instruction.

To drop virtual courses, students must have prior approval from the GCTVLA staff and student enrollment status will transfer to Blended Learning, onsite, on campus learning, with students attending face to face classes. Students will be placed in the on-site class where openings are available.

GCTVLA expects students to make appropriate progress towards successful completion of every course. Students who fall significantly behind due to lack of activity may be administratively removed from the course. Teachers take multiple actions when dealing with students who perpetually do not submit assignments or regularly communicate with their online instructor.

- When students do not submit the expected number of assignments within a period of three (3) consecutive days without special approval of extenuating circumstances, the student and parent receive a phone call from GCTVLA staff. During the call, the students' parents, and teacher work to resolve issues preventing the student from submitting assignments.
- When the student does not respond to the phone call by submitting assignments within three (3) days or does not continue to submit assignments, the teacher sends an email to the student and parent to remind them of the importance of submitting work and detailing the withdrawal process.
- When the student does not respond by submitting assignments within three (3) weeks or fifteen (15) days of the initial phone call, GCTVLA staff assume the student does not intend to remain in the course, and the student will be administratively dropped from GCTVLA and must return to on-site instruction.

The ultimate goal is for all students to be actively engaged in their learning and to achieve success in their online courses. GCTVLA is committed to student success and will continue to work with students and parents to ensure student success.

MEALS Updated 8-28-2020

Virtual students can come to the back of Primary school on Rockingchair Rd daily. There is a curbside sign that shows the number to call to have meals brought out to the vehicle. The student must be present and we will check off the name and charge it to the students account.

GRADES

Student grades are posted in eSchool and parents may view student work in the Home Access Center. Grades are based on completion of work and mastery of student learning goals. Grades are weighted based on GCTVLA policy as stated in the GCT Parent/Student Handbook. Grades earned for courses for graduation credit are included in the student's GPA, class rank, and honor status. Secondary virtual courses are weighted in the same manner as traditional courses.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

GCTVLA prefers students use personal devices to work on assignments but will provide student laptops upon a demonstrated need to complete their virtual coursework. Students need to have access to high speed internet, and if they have questions on accessible lessons they may contact GCTVLA staff to discuss specific requirements.

Students must sign and return a [Student Computer Use Policy](#) when enrolling in GCTVLA and if they check out a device they will need to turn in a [Check Out Device Contract](#).

WORKING ON OR OFF CAMPUS

Students who enroll full time in GCTVLA complete their courses exclusively off-campus. Virtual instructors will be available to facilitate learning and to ensure that the best and most effective practices are utilized to promote student learning and growth.

All full time GCTVLA students must complete assessments mandated by the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and/or the district on-site at pre-scheduled, designated times. Teachers with the GCTVLA will coordinate and schedule the times for students to complete the required assessments on campus.

GCTVLA students in grades 7-12 may participate in AAA activities in person at the school, including band, choir, and athletics. Students must attend at least ONE class in person on campus face to face to participate in an AAA activity. The activity can be the one class on campus if provided during the school day. Transportation to campus for this one class is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for the full-time, virtual student is based on utilization of the courseware and completion of assignments. GCTVLA staff makes an effort to ensure all students make appropriate progress toward successful completion. Students who fall significantly behind due to lack of activity may be administratively removed from GCTVLA and required to take courses on-site.

DESE has amended the definition of an “absence” to reflect, remote, off site, and virtual learning. A student is absent if the student is NOT:

- 1) Present for onsite instruction provided by the district
- 2) Participating in a planned district-approved activity, or
- 3) Engaged in scheduled instruction at an off-site location, including remote learning

CURRICULUM AND COURSE MATERIAL

GCTVLA has partnered with Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC) and will be utilizing online platforms such as Lincoln Learning, Google Classroom, and Zoom to offer courses aligned with Arkansas Learning Standards. Content and learning experiences will provide authentic, reliable, and rigorous coursework for students

desiring the flexibility and challenge of a virtual learning environment. Instruction will be provided by Arkansas Highly-Qualified licensed teachers employed by GCT.

Students have individual needs, interests, and abilities; therefore, it proves difficult to estimate the exact number of hours each day students spend on virtual learning.

General estimates include:

Primary/ Elementary/Intermediate	(K-5) 1-4 hours a day
Middle School/Jr. High	(6-9) 4-6 hours a day
High School	(10-12) 6-8 hours a day

The sequence of courses offered in grades K-6 will be similar to the regular curriculum offered on campus but may vary due to the learning management system the district will use to provide virtual learning.

Students in grades 7-12 take core courses (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies) and electives for up to (8) courses per semester.

Students, teachers, and families will work together to ensure virtual students are successful in their coursework. Students and parents are encouraged to contact GCTVLA buildings at any time to discuss concerns and implement strategies to ensure student progress.

GCT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE OF CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are responsible for their behaviors and are expected to comply with the GCTVLA Technology Acceptable Use Code of Conduct. A complete copy of this policy is found in the GCT Parent/Student Handbook located on the district web page.

Basic considerations to follow include:

- 1) Copyright laws will be respected. All quotations, references, graphics, video clips, digital music, and other information will be cited to give credit to the originator.
- 2) Students should not allow other students to access the computers or networks using their password/ID.
- 3) Teachers have the right to access the work of students in their classes as it pertains to the class.
- 4) Each student will only use his/her assigned password/ID and will not trespass into the files, folders, or work of others.
- 5) Users of technology resources will respect the rights of others.

- 6) Communication will follow professional standards. Offensive messages or pictures will not be sent, displayed, or downloaded as all GCT harassment policies will be followed and applied.

Suggested considerations while working online may include:

Considerations for Online Learning Appropriate Behavior.

GCT PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK

Students enrolled in the GCTVLA are subject to ALL rules and regulations established by the school board and will abide by the policies set forth in the GCTVLA Parent Student Handbook located on the district's web page.