



Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS BLUE AND WHITE ACADEMY?

Blue and White Academy is a remote learning online program provided by Brimley Schools to provide a virtual learning option for parents and students. Students participating in Blue and White academy will receive the same curriculum and pacing guide as face to face students.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Students must be currently enrolled at Brimley Area Schools. Students are required to respond to a minimum of one (1) contact per week that is initiated by either the student or their teacher(s). Students are required to participate in the annual state assessment testing and any relevant local assessments. The contact can be done using email, phone call or virtual meeting.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

Students will be part of Brimley Area Schools. As such we are a public, tuition-free school. This option is for parents of Brimley students in grades K-12 that are willing to guide their child's learning but preferring a virtual, home-based environment.

WILL MY CHILD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE BREAKFAST/LUNCH?

Yes, all students enrolled in a public school will receive access to school meals. Those that qualify for the free and reduced lunch program may sign up to receive meals for free and it will be available for purchase for those that do not qualify.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR ENROLLMENT?

First quarter commitments will be accepted by home districts no later than August 21st for students wishing to start the school year on time.

CAN WE OPT OUT OF THIS PROGRAM?

You may opt out at the end of any marking period. First quarter ends November 6th, Second quarter ends on January 29th, third quarter ends on April 9th.

WHAT TECHNOLOGY WILL MY STUDENT NEED TO PARTICIPATE?

Laptops or Chromebooks will be provided by Brimley Area Schools if needed. Students will need access to some type of scanning technology to scan completed worksheets. Provided laptops/chromebook will be able to scan using the integrated cameras. Phones and regular scanners will work as well. We will be having an

orientation to teach students how to use various scanning technologies available on their chromebook or phone.

Reliable Internet that is capable of streaming video will be needed.

Printers are recommended but not required. If a printer is not available, families will be responsible for picking up materials from school at designated times or requesting that the materials be mailed home.

WHO WILL BE TEACHING MY CHILD?

Highly-qualified teachers from Brimley Schools will be teaching students based on grade level or content area.

HOW WILL IEP OR 504 PLANS BE ACCOMMODATED? HOW WILL ELEMENTARY INTERVENTIONS WORK?

We will work closely with our district Special Education and intervention teacher(s) to ensure that plans/IRIPS are followed for all students.

HOW WILL THIS LOOK DIFFERENT FROM THE SPRING? WHAT WILL THE EXPECTATIONS BE?

Blue and White Academy will be on the same pace as face-to-face learning taking place within the Brimley School District building. This will be a more rigorous experience than the extended online learning was in the spring of 2020. Students in both learning environments will be working towards the same district competencies and state standards.

Students will be expected to follow the same deadlines and pacing as students that are face-to-face. Students will be expected to attend school every day by logging into each class that they are assigned.

DO STUDENTS HAVE TO LOG IN TO EVERY CLASS EVERY DAY?

Yes, daily attendance and participation are required. Brimley Area Schools attendance policy still applies to Blue and White Academy students. Keep in mind the policy of 10 days worth of absences (not signing in) and how it affects students' work. Please refer to the [Brimley Middle School / High School Handbook](#).

HOW OFTEN WILL STUDENTS BE REQUIRED TO MEET VIRTUALLY WITH THEIR TEACHERS?

Students are required to respond to a minimum of one (1) contact per week that is initiated by either the student or their teacher(s). Weekly contact between the student and his/her teacher(s) is required only during the weeks that school is in session. The methods of contact may include telephone, video conference, and/or email.

HOW LONG WILL STUDENTS HAVE TO BE ONLINE EVERY DAY?

Total class commitment time includes online and independent work. The following table addresses recommended screen time limits:

Recommended Daily Activity Times

Grade Level	Minimum	Maximum	Recommended Length of Sustained Attention
K	30 minutes/day	90 minutes/day	3-5 minutes
1-2	45 minutes/day	90 minutes/day	5-10 minutes
3-5	60 minutes/day	120 minutes/day	10-15 minutes
6-8	Class: 15 minutes/day Total: 90 minutes/day	Class: 30 minutes/day Total: 180 minutes/day	1 subject area or class
9-12	Class: 20 minutes/day Total: 120 minutes/day	Class: 45 minutes/day Total: 270 minutes/day	1 subject area or class

HOW MUCH TIME DO I NEED TO SPEND EACH DAY SUPPORTING MY CHILD'S LEARNING?

Parent (and other caregivers) participation is vital to student success in the program. To be successful, virtual learning requires a five-day-a-week schedule similar to the time spent in a traditional classroom. It is recommended that you dedicate an average of five hours per day of your home schedule to working with your child.

WILL MY STUDENT'S BE ABLE TO ACCESS THEIR TEACHERS' DIRECT INSTRUCTION?

Teachers will be providing instruction to both face to face and Blue and White Academy students in various ways. Videos, reading, projects, and other forms of instructions will be available from the Accelerate Education Program. Teachers will also record their lessons and upload them to Accelerate Education. Students may also have the opportunity to join in live Zoom meetings with their teachers.

HOW WILL GRADING WORK?

Grading processes will be shared at orientation with teachers. Communication between teachers and parents is encouraged. Teachers will take the submitted work on Accelerated Education and transfer it to the Illuminate gradebook. Please check the Illuminate gradebook for the most accurate grade.

HOW WILL CLASSWORK / HOMEWORK BE TURNED IN?

During the course, there will be some assignments that can be completed entirely online, within the Accelerate Education program. Other assignments will require students to fill out a worksheet, scan it, and upload it to Accelerate Education. The scan and upload process will be covered in orientation.

Please note that students will be expected to keep pace with face to face instruction. Students will not be able to fall behind or work ahead. Extenuating circumstances are of course permitted.

CAN MY CHILD(REN) PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS IF THEY ARE ENROLLED IN THIS PROGRAM?

Yes, as a student in the local district, participation would be based on MHSAA and the Brimley Athletic Policy.

CAN MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS?

Participation in extracurricular activities will be determined on a case by case situation.

WHAT OPTIONS ARE THERE FOR ELECTIVE COURSES IN THIS PROGRAM? CAN MY CHILD(REN) STILL PARTICIPATE IN BAND, SHOP, PE, ETC?

[K-5 Accelerate Education Course Catalog](#)

[6-12 Accelerate Education Course Catalog](#)

Elective courses will be offered based on the capacity of our teaching staff. Shop will not be available for MS/HS students. This is the list of courses that Accelerate Education has available. Students will not need to pick and choose their courses. Instead they will be given the same courses they would have taken in the face to face option. We are doing it this way in case the student decides to come to face-to-face instruction after a quarter. They can then jump right into that same course and be on pace with the other students.

IS THE ACCELERATE EDUCATION CURRICULUM ALIGNED WITH MICHIGAN'S CURRICULUM STANDARDS?

Accelerate Education's course materials are aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Blue and White Academy teachers will use regional resources to ensure that the curriculum meets the Michigan standards and expectations.

Take a look at the Accelerate Education platform here:

Accelerate Education Video Links:

- [Elementary Education Online Elementary \(Grades K-5\) Overview](#)
- [Middle School, High School, and Credit Recovery Overview](#)

ONGOING CONCERNS AND UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

- How will we proctor students taking quarterly and semester exams to ensure the integrity of the tests?
- How will labs and projects look for science classes?
- Things we don't know, we don't know.