



Smith County Schools

Virtual Learning Requirements

Smith County Schools (SCS) is pleased to offer Virtual Learning as an option for our students and parents for the reopening of school for the 2020-21 school year. The virtual learning option will be using the online learning platform, Odysseyware. The Basic Requirements for participation in the Virtual Learning are as follows:

1. Submit completed application to your home school by July 24, 2020.
2. Smith County residency.
3. Meet attendance requirements as set forth by the Board of Education for virtual learning. See below for multiple ways student attendance can be verified virtually:
 - Participation in a live virtual learning session.
 - Submission of a student work product via email or online learning platform (grades 3-12)
 - Submission of student work product via paper packet or picture (K-5).
 - Email confirmation from student or parent.
 - Phone exchange between the teacher and student or parent.
4. Ensure the home has access to adequate technology such as a computer, printer, and access to the Internet (Exceptions may be made for students with significant health conditions with relevant documentation).
5. Meet participation requirements and make progress toward successful completion of courses.
6. Attend school for 180 days of instruction and seven (7) hours per day per academic year pursuant to T.C.A. 49-6-3004.
7. Take all state tests required of public school students in a proctored environment consistent with state test administration guidelines.
8. **Commit to remain enrolled in the virtual school program through the semester (student in 3rd-12th grade) or nine (9) week grading period (student in K-2nd grade) for which an application is made.**

Please note:

- Students must stay in good standing with the school in regard to absences and completion of assigned classwork. Students not following school policies will be reviewed for possible

return to the traditional school day.

Virtual Learning Expectations

In order for students to be successful in a virtual learning environment, it is highly recommended that Kindergarten-8th grade students have a designated learning mentor (LM) at home (parent, guardian, or other qualified adult). The LM will need to be available and committed to serving in this capacity during school day hours every day, Monday through Friday. The role of the Learning Mentor will be to:

- Provide academic support, motivation, and guidance throughout the semester
- Ensure the student is on track with assignments and coursework
- Communicate regularly with teachers and attend Parent Teacher Conferences as requested
- Keep track of attendance and alert teachers of any absence(s)
- Spend 4-6 hours per day working and/or supporting the student
- Lead offline activities and help the student develop foundational skills and deepen understanding of content
- Create a location in the home that can serve as a dedicated learning space
- Ensure student adherence to the Smith County Schools Code of Conduct
- Ensure access to Broadband internet

Academics, Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

- Students who choose this option will still be tied to the school they would have attended if they were going to school in person. Students may participate in extracurricular activities at his/her school according to the school's policies.
- The Code of Conduct will apply to all students enrolled in this option.
- Course offerings will be based on core content areas and at the high school level will include only standards level courses required for graduation. Please note, high schools and middle schools cannot guarantee students will have access to every course offered in either the school's Program of Studies or Odysseyware. (Some courses offered by Smith County Schools are not available through Odysseyware and some courses available in Odysseyware are not offered in Smith County Schools' programs.) These differences primarily are within fine arts electives and career and technical education courses at the high school level. Click the following [link](#) to see a list of available course options by grade. Please note: for grades K-2, available courses are math and reading through Odysseyware *Spark*.
- Lessons will be provided through the learning management system, Odysseyware.

Lessons may consist of reading material, video tutorials, and online questioning. Student work may consist of multiple choice assignments, quizzes, tests, written assignments and open-response questions, essays, and projects. Student progress will be monitored by a Smith County Schools certified teacher which will be available to answer questions, provide feedback, and grade assignments.

- **Special Education and 504 Services:** Students participating in the virtual option who also have an individualized education program (IEP) and/or a 504 service plan will have an IEP or 504 service plan meeting to ensure that the IEP and/or 504 services are provided appropriately in the virtual environment. Participation in this virtual learning option may result in direct and related services being provided virtually. The student's IEP and/or 504 teams will determine how to best meet the needs of the student in the virtual classroom environment so that the student receives a free and appropriate public education.
- Smith County Schools recognize that students with IEPs and 504 plans have individualized needs that may affect a parent's decision to enroll in this virtual education option. If you have concerns about the July 24 deadline for enrollment in this option or how this option would impact your student's plan, please contact the Special Education supervisors at 615-735-9625.

Continuation in Virtual Learning

Continuation in the virtual learning environment will be based upon successful completion of the first semester or first 9-week grading period of courses and approval of the supervising school principal. Additionally, a meeting may be requested by the school principal if the student is demonstrating poor progress following the first progress report or the first nine weeks to discuss methods to support the student. If the student continues to not make adequate progress, the school principal may revoke the privilege of the virtual learning option.



**Smith County Schools
Virtual Learning Parent
Agreement Form**

Student's Name _____ **Grade** _____

School _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **email** _____

***Parent's Signature** _____ **Date** _____

Please return this form to student's home school by July 24, 2020

***By signing this form you certify that you meet the requirements and agree to abide by the expectations for the Smith County Virtual Learning program set forth in this document.**