

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

OVERVIEW

Southwest Parke Community School Corporation believes that face-to-face instruction delivered by a highly qualified teacher, along with a blend of digital and off-screen learning activities, offers the greatest academic success and important social experiences for most students. However, in the interest of student safety during the coronavirus pandemic, we are proud to offer an online learning alternative for the 2020-2021 school year. This alternative is intended to provide parents who are uncomfortable sending their children to school with an option for them to complete grade-level curriculum and differentiated lessons from the safety of their own homes. K-8 grade students enrolled in the Virtual Academy will continue the same core curriculum as their in-school peers through interactive tutorials, video lessons, online reading, and digital assessments. 9-12 grade students will complete digital courses through Edmentum's Plato Courseware. Those considering enrollment should understand that the requirements and expectations are more rigorous than the average eLearning lesson experience at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, as students will need to keep pace with their in-school peers. Parents must also understand that there are many aspects of school that **cannot** be met through this offering including social interactions, some specials/elective experiences, continuous monitoring, and classroom discourse that contributes significantly to the understanding of academic concepts. These limitations should be carefully considered when choosing the best enrollment for each student.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT:

- **Internet:** Students must have consistent access to a reliable internet connection sufficient to support streaming videos, live meetings, and interactive tutorials.
- **Device:** Students must have consistent access to a device compatible with the curriculum programs. Personal devices are allowed if they work with all programs the student will need to use. If there are any issues with compatibility or accessibility, the school will provide a device, which will remain the property of the school. Parents will be responsible for the cost of repair or replacement if the device is damaged, lost, or stolen.
- **Supervising Adult:** Parents, guardians, or caretakers must be diligent to assure that students are focused on their learning tasks and complete all required components on time. Each student must have a supervising adult listed as a point of contact. The online teacher will send weekly progress reports to this individual and communicate if the student begins to struggle or fall behind in coursework.
- **Semester Commitment:** Continuity is key to success, therefore students should maintain their chosen enrollment (online or in-person) through the end of the semester. If there is a significant need for a change into or out of the Virtual Academy before the end of the semester, a conference involving all parties will be necessary.

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EXPECTATIONS:

- **Content Areas:** The Virtual Academy includes all core areas of the grade level's curriculum.
 - Elementary students will complete lessons in Math, English/Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies daily, as well as one specials lesson per week (Art, Music, Library, PE).
 - Junior High students will complete lessons in Math, English/Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Careers daily.
 - High school students will have a separate Plato course for each class taken, focusing on three or four courses at a time. Please note that some elective courses offered in-person will not be available to students in the Virtual Academy.
- **Time:** The time needed to complete lessons will vary widely by individual student and grade level, but will likely fall within the range of 2-5 hours daily.
- **Attendance:** Students must check-in with their teacher before 2 PM each school day. This will assure that students are engaged daily, are able to access their work, and will account for the day's attendance. Attendance must now be reported to the state daily, so this check-in is critical for documentation.
- **Testing:** Key assessments (diagnostics, post-tests, and semester tests) must be proctored by the teacher. This will be done virtually by a live Google Meet connection throughout the testing.
- **Grades:** Grades will be recorded based on the academic success of assignments, quizzes, and tests, comparable to traditional classroom grading. Progress reports will be sent every Friday. Grades will be finalized at the end of each quarter.
- **Live Help:** The online teacher will be available for live help sessions as needed. Students struggling with lesson concepts are expected to communicate that need and take advantage of this opportunity to receive personal assistance.
- **Communication & Adaptability:** As this is the first attempt to provide a virtual option on this scale, there are bound to be some kinks to work out. Good communication and willingness to adapt as needed are important expectations for all parties. Communication will happen through Google Classroom, email, Google Meet, and phone.
- **Special Education:** Students who qualify for special services will continue to receive those services to the greatest extent possible. This may require arrangements to be made for some in-person or virtual sessions with therapists and special education teachers.

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ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Kindergarten through 8th Grade - Teacher: Mrs. Rachel Porter

- The curriculum framework will capitalize on the same digital programs used by students attending school in-person, including content from the following platforms in each lesson:
 - iReady Math (Grades K-8)
 - iReady Reading (Grades K-8)
 - Achieve 3000 (Grades 3-8)
 - Studies Weekly Social Studies (Grades K-8)
 - Mystery Science (Grades K-5)
 - Kesler Science (Grades 6-8)
 - Plato Career Exploration (Grades 7-8)
- The curricular programs will be supplemented with additional content including teaching videos, reading passages, interactive websites, and group or individual *Google Meet* live sessions as needed.
- Mrs. Porter's office hours will be 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM on days school is in session to support online students. Questions and requests for help that come in outside of these hours may not be able to be addressed until the following school day.
- Mrs. Porter will collaborate with classroom and special education teachers as needed.

High School - Teachers: Mr. Michael Butler and Miss Nikki Jacks

- Students will take three or four courses at a time to be completed by the end of each quarter, totaling six or seven courses for the semester.
- Courses will mirror their traditional schedule as much as possible. Some classes normally offered on-site are not available through the Virtual Academy.
- Mr. Butler and Miss Jacks will hold office hours daily from 8:59-9:44 AM and on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 PM to support online students. Questions and requests for help that come in outside of these hours may not be able to be addressed immediately.

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ACCEPTANCE

I, _____, parent/guardian of _____
(parent/guardian's name) (student's name)

at _____, have reviewed the information in this document
school)

and agree to all set forth with the belief that the Virtual Academy is the best option for my child at this time.

(parent/guardian's signature)

(date)