



Student Eligibility and Requirements

Students who meet the following requirements are eligible to participate in the virtual education program:

- Enrolled in Ninnekah Public School System
- Read this student and parent handbook and complete the Virtual Ninnekah Enrollment Packet
- Participate in all required state-level academic assessments (OSTP) in the same manner as other regularly enrolled students within the district. Assessments will be taken at the school site at which the student is enrolled.
- Accomplish steps of research and activities on their individualized career academic plan (ICAP), as is designated by the school (grades 8th - 12th only). Links will be provided.
- Students are required to have a device. A device may be provided by the school upon request. Families must have access to consistent, daily internet service.
- For students in grades 6th-8th the parent/coach still plays an important role, but students are expected to begin to manage their time and schedule.
- Students must respond to school system communication in a timely manner. Each student is required to have a school email address. Middle school students have a school email address which must be maintained and checked daily by the student.
- Parents must be available for the teacher to contact throughout the day to stay up to date on student's progress.
- Parents must play an active role in holding their student accountable to keeping their designated pace.
- 6th-8th grade students' core curriculum will be located on Edmentum Courseware. Additionally, students will be required to practice skills on Exact Path for Individualized Education. Eighth graders will also be required to complete all ICAP (Individual Career Academic Plan) activities. Students must complete their required weekly percentage in Edmentum Courseware courses and a minimum of 30 minutes weekly on Exact Path.

Attendance Policy

Students participating in the virtual education program will be considered as being in attendance if the students are meeting one of the two following criteria.

- Students are on pace to finish the assigned courses by the prescribed finish date.
- Students have logged on for a minimum of 2.5 hours per day (includes 30 minutes weekly on Exact Path)

Accepted Pace Descriptions and Falling Behind Policy

- Accepted pace will be communicated by the teacher for each individual student.
- Pace will be based on the weekly percentage required for each course.
- Students who fall behind on their weekly percentage, or their grade falls below a 60%, will be REQUIRED to meet with the teacher at least once per week or as needed.

Failure to Communicate Policy

- Students must reply promptly (within the hour) of a teacher's instant message, or within 24 hours of a teacher's email. If students do not communicate within a timely manner parents will then be contacted.

- If failure to communicate continues, or the school is unable to contact the parent to formulate a recovery plan, the student will have to be considered truant, and a letter will be sent to the district attorney for truancy.

Extracurricular Eligibility Policy

- Students must be in attendance at their respective extracurricular each day on campus.
- Students must complete the drug testing agreement form and agree to report to the designated location when called for drug testing.
- Students in athletics or extracurricular activities must maintain a 70% average in all classes. If not, the first week student is on probation or any consecutive week after, student is considered ineligible.
- In order to be considered eligible to participate in extracurricular competitions students must be in attendance at their extracurricular class on campus and maintain their required weekly percentage in all assigned coursework.

Students on Campus Procedure

- Students are expected to follow the site student handbook and expectations when on campus.
- Students are expected to go directly to their designated extracurricular class when on campus and leave the campus immediately after their extracurricular class has ended.

Resources Available to Students

- Content specific face-to-face mentorship is available at the times and zoom meeting ID numbers listed below. It is also recommended that students/parents call, email, or contact the teacher through the Edmentum Courseware website if they were not available at the designated time.
- Onsite resource time is available by appointment during normal school hours.
- Provide consistent communication with parent and student about student's progress.

<u>VIRTUAL NINNEKAH Teacher-Student meeting times</u>			Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays
<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Classes</u>	<u>Zoom Meeting ID</u>	<u>6th Grade</u>	<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
Austin, Pepper	6th-8th Social Studies	471 251 4495	11:30am-12:00pm	11:30am-12:00pm	11:30am-12:00pm
Williams, Laurie	6th-8th English	428 508 7241	1:00pm-1:30pm	1:00pm-1:30pm	1:00pm-1:30pm
Winsett, Tara	6th-8th Science	427 414 6959	3:30pm-4:00pm	3:30pm-4:00pm	3:30pm-4:00pm
			<u>ONLY Tuesdays</u>		
Jones, Regina	6th-8th Reading	867 398 5192	4:00pm-4:30pm <u>6th Grade</u>	4:30pm-5:00pm <u>7th Grade</u>	5:00pm-5:30pm <u>8th Grade</u>
			<u>ONLY Wednesdays</u>		
Shoemake, Tanner	6th Math & 8th Algebra 1	989 476 8073 Password: math	4:00pm-4:30pm <u>6th Grade</u>		4:30pm-5:00pm <u>8th Grade</u>
			<u>Every Day</u>		
Dennis, Charles	7th-8th Math	211 043 1845		10:30am-11:00am <u>7th Grade</u>	10:30am-11:00am <u>8th Grade</u>

To join, create a zoom account at zoom.us and simply Join Meeting at top, enter the meeting ID and you are good to go!

Ninnekah Public Schools will provide an online school option for students K- 12. This interactive learning environment will provide virtual access to lessons, assignments and instruction through a variety of platforms.

Our virtual school option meets all Oklahoma public school standards and graduation requirements. Instructors are Oklahoma certified teachers and employees of Ninnekah Public Schools. Students completing graduation requirements will be awarded a Ninnekah High School diploma.

FAQs:

Which students are eligible for the Virtual Ninnekah program?

Any K-12 student enrolled in Ninnekah Public Schools.

Is there a cost to participate?

There is no cost to the parent to participate in the Virtual Ninnekah curriculum.

What if I do not have a device for learning or internet access?

A device may be checked out to your student. NPS is currently looking into internet options. These will be distributed based on need, as they come from a state department grant program.

What if I have multiple students but only one device?

We highly recommend no more than 3 students in your home share a single device. If your home has more than 3 students in virtual learning, you may be eligible to check out 1 additional device.

What if my only device is a cell phone?

Although many programs can be accessed on a cell phone, we highly recommend you use a device that has more capability.

Is this program the same as distance learning during the Spring 2020 semester?

No. In March of 2020, the state Board of Education closed schools in Oklahoma due to the coronavirus pandemic and recommended a distance learning plan that allowed students to complete the school year at home. At that time, NPS provided families with distance learning options that allowed for review and completion of courses. Virtual Ninnekah will be a graded platform with online instruction, progress and attendance requirements.

What curriculum will be used for the Virtual Ninnekah program at the Middle School level?

- **6-8** – Exact Path for benchmark tests and Edmentum Courseware for all curriculum areas

All curriculum is aligned to the Oklahoma Academic Standards. Therefore, students who stay on track with virtual learning should not encounter any instructional loss and should be as ready to progress to the next grade as their in-class peers.

Will students be able to take advanced classes online?

Yes, Middle School students will have access to advanced coursework on the virtual platform.

How much time do students have to complete courses?

Students have the same time to complete the course as students in traditional school. The program will show if the student is on track to finish on time. It is important to not get behind in the program. However, there is the flexibility to work ahead and take breaks as desired.

What will my child study?

The subjects in Virtual Ninnekah are the same grade-appropriate core subjects and electives they would take in person at NPS; they are provided through the Edmentum Courseware program.

How do I select my classes?

Courses will be assigned by the Middle School principal. Once enrolled in Virtual Ninnekah, you will receive an email outlining several elective options, both on campus and virtual, for you to choose from.

Will students receive a standard diploma if they complete graduation requirements in virtual school?

Yes, students completing graduation requirements will receive a standard high school diploma from Ninnekah High School. Credits, grade point average and any other requirements for graduation from virtual school are identical to those of the traditional high schools. Credits are transferable within the state so students do not lose completed course credits if they move from one public school to another. Online students will get to participate in NPS graduation ceremonies.

Will students be required to take state mandated achievement tests or other required tests?

Yes, students in third grade and above must take the tests mandated by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. (Unless SDE waives the testing mandate as they did this past spring) Parents will be notified of the times and locations of those tests. There are also required Reading Sufficiency Act screeners that will be required throughout the year for students in grades K-5.

What are the benefits of taking an Online Course?

- Flexible schedule
- Flexibility of time to work through coursework

- Individualized pacing
- Convenience and freedom to access courses at any time and from any place
- The comfort of working at home with parental assistance and support
- Parental involvement in education
- Individualization of student needs
- Access to enrichment opportunities

What are the cons of taking online courses?

- Lack of face-to-face and personal contact with instructor on a day to day basis
- Required access to computer and internet
- Technical problems (including computer, server, network, power)
- Needed self-discipline, self-motivation, time-management and strong organization skills
- Required technical/computer literacy and keyboarding /typing skills
- Lack of immediate help or feedback from online teacher
- Distractions when working from home
- Limits certain kinds of class instruction (modeling, demonstrations, spontaneous interactions).
- Less socialization with peers (no library time, class crafts/parties etc.)
- Time required for parental involvement in student learning

What are the responsibilities of parents?

A virtual instructional option is home-based. This gives parents additional responsibilities for providing instructional support, monitoring student engagement and progress, and communicating with teachers via e-mail and telephone.

- Parents must help maintain a computer and internet access for their student's work.
- Parents must establish an environment that is conducive to a student's learning.
- Parents must ensure that students log in to courses, so attendance can be taken daily.
- Parents must be aware that students are expected to follow the district's virtual attendance policy and attend (complete) their virtual courses regularly. A student's failure to sign in to his or her digital platform account regularly and/or demonstrate academic progress may have a negative impact on a student's ability to stay enrolled as a virtual student.

Will a student be allowed to be on campus for some classes and virtual for others?

The virtual option is being offered as an emergency method to aid students who have a reason related to COVID-19 for not returning to campus. With the exception of the class period for a competitive activity in grades 6-12th no other courses may be taken on campus for this year if the virtual option is chosen. While this may change in the future as Ninnekah School develops virtual courses, it is not currently an option to take any courses that is not a competitive activity 6-12th.

(If a student desires to continue competitive activities the OSSAA requires the student attend that class period each day. Students competing in these activities must also remain eligible by maintaining passing grades and maintaining progress in their courses. See below.)

Is my student eligible to participate in sports or other extracurricular activities?

Students (grades 6-12) in the Virtual Ninnekah program are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities offered by Ninnekah Public Schools if they meet the academic eligibility requirements. Students and parents must work directly with their school to make arrangements for participation in extracurricular activities.

Will my child be in front of a screen all day?

No. We estimate that the Virtual Ninnekah program will require students to spend 2-4 hours a day maximum on the computer. Their screen time could be lessened depending on their grade level and course load as well as the type of subjects they study. The involvement of the parent or guardian will be crucial to ensure that the student is not spending too much time in front of a screen.

How is my student counted for attendance in the Virtual Ninnekah Program ?

Students are required to log into the virtual platform on a regular basis. Ninnekah Public Schools verifies attendance by students signing in to their virtual courses and making successful academic progress. While students have flexibility, if a student does not log on for an extended period of time it will affect their attendance negatively.

Middle school students have the ability to log into their courses at any time. Attendance is determined by the student's level of progress towards completion of the coursework. A minimum of 10-20 hours per week are recommended for satisfactory progress depending on the age of the student. Parents are subject to the Oklahoma compulsory student attendance law and are accountable for compliance in virtual school just as they are in the traditional school setting. Students with attendance/progress deficiencies may be returned to the regular school setting.

What if a virtual student tests positive for COVID-19?

Students/Parents should notify the building principal of a positive test as soon as possible.

In the event of a mild case, the flexible nature of online learning would allow the student to take a few days to recover and then resume lessons. Be mindful that the student may need to double up on lessons to remain on pace to finish the course work by the end of the semester. This would not be different than a student having make-up work in the traditional classroom.

In the event of a severe case with extensive recovery, the students' situation would be reviewed by the instructor and administration to determine how to proceed. Communication is key.

If we enroll in the Virtual Ninnekah program and it does not meet my student's needs, what are my options?

Ten school days will be granted as a trial period to determine if virtual schooling is appropriate. Parents should make the decision to enroll their student in virtual school in a very thoughtful manner. Virtual education is a flexible option for students and/or parents who have anxiety about returning to the

traditional classroom, but some find the demands too strenuous. After the ten day trial period, students and parents are committed to at least one semester of digital learning.

Must I enroll my student in the Virtual Ninnekah program for one year, or may I enroll my student at the change of semesters?

A student must be enrolled in the Virtual Ninnekah program for one semester. However, the parent may choose to continue for the full school year. Students will be allowed to change enrollment from the traditional classroom to the virtual program and vice versa at Christmas break (semester). We highly encourage parents to evaluate student progress (at the end of each semester) with their teachers to ensure digital learning is the right fit for you. If, at the end of the semester you would like to return to the traditional classroom, reach out to your building principal.

What if we discover the Virtual Ninnekah program is not the right fit for our student and family?

We want to ensure students are placed in a successful learning environment and understand that online learning may not be for every student. A family has ten school days after the first day of school to move their student back into the traditional setting. The student, parent/guardian, teacher, and site administrator will work together to make this decision. After the first ten school days of the school year, a student will need to stay enrolled in the Virtual Ninnekah program until the end of the semester.

If you choose to return to classroom instruction at the end of the semester, your student will be enrolled as normal, through the building principal.

Can I move my child into the virtual program during the school year?

No. It is very difficult to ensure that the curriculum for the virtual school and the traditional classroom will match in the middle of a semester. If a student becomes ill, or cannot be in school, the parent will need to reach out to the school principal to work on a solution. These cases will be handled as we have in the past, by sending work home and allowing the number of days missed plus 1 to make up work.

Is this program a good fit for students who are homeschooled?

Yes! Families who choose to homeschool may enroll in the Virtual Ninnekah program while maintaining control of their child's at-home learning environment. The Virtual Ninnekah program offers board-approved elementary, middle, and high school curriculum that is comprehensive and aligned to Oklahoma's state standards. Students in grades 6-12 would also have extracurricular opportunities available. Grades and transcripts will be issued by Ninnekah Public Schools.

What if my child has special needs?

Parents of children with disabilities on a Section 504 Accommodation Plan or on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will want to meet with their student's team to determine if the Virtual Ninnekah program is the best placement for their child. Our Special Education director, Terry Jones, Jr. can be contacted at (405) 222-0420 or by email at t.jones@ninnekah.k12.ok.us.

Is my student eligible for breakfast and lunch while they are learning at home?

Yes, meals will be available to be picked up at a set time each day. Families will be responsible for ordering the meals ahead of time. The meal will be a “grab ‘n go” only option. This may be done through the superintendent’s office (405) 224-4092.

What school supplies will be needed for virtual learning?

There will not be a specific school supply list. For middle school students, a notebook of some kind to take notes is highly recommended.

What about semester tests?

All Ninnekah Middle School students are required to take a semester exam. The same exemption rules will apply. Students with an A and 3 absences, B and 2 absences, C and 1 absence will be exempt from the semester test in that course. Semester exams are only administered in core classes (math, science, reading, English, and social studies).

Who do I contact for questions and additional information?

Please email Glen Shoemake at gshoemake@ninnekah.k12.ok.us, or call the middle school office at (405) 224-4299, opt. 160.