

## Clayton County Public Schools Virtual Learning Academy (VLA)

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Overview:** The leadership of Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is continuing to develop plans for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. A variety of options have been proposed to provide an optimum education for Clayton County's students no matter the existing COVID-19 pandemic conditions. One such option is the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA). The VLA offers full-time enrollment in an at-home virtual learning environment for at least one full semester.

#### **QUESTION: What is the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**ANSWER:** The Virtual Learning Academy is for families who would like their child to receive instruction from home for at least one full semester (August 2020 to December 2020 or January 2021 to May 2021). Under this model, students will be taught virtually by a certified teacher in Clayton County Public Schools. The Virtual Learning Academy is for students in Grades K-12 and is tuition free. Students who are accepted into the VLA will still be enrolled in their home/zoned school; however, they will receive all of their instruction online.

#### **QUESTION: How do I register my child for the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**ANSWER:** Parents can only apply for the VLA by accessing the *Parent Interest Application* through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal starting Sunday, beginning July 5, 2020.

Applications must be completed and submitted by Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. The application requires that parents have their child's Student Identification (ID) Number. If the student does not have an ID due to being new to the district or a Kindergartner, the parent will have to first complete the Online Registration Process, which can be found at this [LINK](#).

Please note: *We are aware that some parents are having challenges registering due to delays in seeing doctors, receiving immunization records, etc. We will be flexible with these parents so that they have an opportunity to register their child. Parents (who are new to the school district, have a child entering kindergarten, or have other scenarios where a student would not have a student ID) will have time to register their child(ren) and apply for the Virtual Learning Academy.*

#### **QUESTION: What if I cannot access my parent portal in Infinite Campus?**

**ANSWER:** If parents are experiencing issues with Infinite Campus, they can submit a support request using the link enclosed in the document below.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVR\\_xwxmT6jF5tQUnGspQApNAWPunF4vamV7yzubUJr68QiA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVR_xwxmT6jF5tQUnGspQApNAWPunF4vamV7yzubUJr68QiA/viewform)

**QUESTION: How do I register my child for the Virtual Learning Academy if I am new to the Clayton County school district?**

ANSWER: The application requires that parents have their child's Student Identification (ID) Number. If the student does not have an ID due to being new to the district or a Kindergartner, the parent will have to first complete the Online Registration Process, which can be found at this [LINK](#). Please note: *We are aware that some parents are having challenges registering due to delays in seeing doctors, receiving immunization records, etc. We will be flexible with these parents so that they have an opportunity to register their child. Parents (who are new to the school district, have a child entering kindergarten, or have other scenarios where a student would not have a student ID) will have time to register their child(ren) and apply for the Virtual Learning Academy.*

**QUESTION: How do I register my child for the Virtual Learning Academy if I do not have a Student Identification Number?**

ANSWER: The application requires that parents have their child's Student Identification (ID) Number. If the student does not have an ID due to being new to the district or a Kindergartner, the parent will have to first complete the Online Registration Process, which can be found at this [LINK](#). Please note: *We are aware that some parents are having challenges registering due to delays in seeing doctors, receiving immunization records, etc. We will be flexible with these parents so that they have an opportunity to register their child. Parents (who are new to the school district, have a child entering kindergarten, or have other scenarios where a student would not have a student ID) will have time to register their child(ren) and apply for the Virtual Learning Academy.*

**QUESTION: What if I need to make edits to my Virtual Learning Academy Interest Application.**

ANSWER: Once you complete the application, you will receive the following information: *Your response has been recorded. You can edit your responses after submitting the form, by clicking on the link "Edit your response" or you can do it later on by clicking on the "Edit Response" button on your email receipt.*

**QUESTION: What are the requirements to attend the Virtual Learning Academy?**

ANSWER: For a student to participate in the Virtual Learning Academy, the family must have reliable Internet access and a computer device (e.g. laptop, desktop, tablet). A student must be able to engage in independent learning, keep pace with the weekly lessons, remain organized, check-in and participate based on the CCPS Attendance and Participation Guidelines, have the appropriate supervision and support at home for success, and remain in the Virtual Learning Academy for at least a semester. Important: Final acceptance is based on available seating, district resources, the responses on the VLA Readiness Checklist, and other factors that will support a high-quality, virtual learning experience.

**QUESTION: What are the technical requirements?**

**ANSWER:** Minimum technical requirements are as follows:

- Chrome, Windows-based, or Apple computer, laptop or tablet
- Reliable Internet Connection with a recommended minimum 3 Megabits per second download speed
- Internal or external microphone
- Internal or external speakers or earbuds
- Internal or external web camera
- Google Chrome Browser
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

**QUESTION: I have two children. Can they use the same device, or do I need a device for each child?**

**ANSWER:** It is best if each participating student has his/her own device to support timely check-ins and keeping pace with daily lessons and timely submission of assignments.

**QUESTION: How much time will my child be expected to be online?**

**ANSWER:** The times will vary for different grade levels. More information will be provided in July. There will be an expectation for online instruction, offline instruction and completion of tasks assigned by the teacher. We will specify the amount of screen-time vs. non-screen time. The virtual teacher will explain specific time requirements prior to beginning the Virtual Learning Academy.

**QUESTION: What will school look like in the fall?**

**ANSWER:** The school district is currently leaning towards a Blended Model that supports social distancing. It is an A-Day and B-Day Instructional Model, where students will be assigned to either an A-Day or B-Day and report to the school on alternating days -with Friday being a fully at-home virtual learning day. It is important to note that the model could change based on different community factors. One factor is the level of the community spread of COVID-19, which will be determined by state and local health officials. See the chart below:

**Level of Community Spread of COVID-19** *(As determined by state and local health officials\*)*

Level of Community Spread	Instructional Model
High/Substantial Spread	<b>Distance Learning Schedule</b> – School buildings are closed. All students will participate in distance learning. Students will receive assignments and instruction through technology.
Moderate/Minimal Spread	<b>Alternating Schedule</b> – Students will alternate face-to-face and virtual learning during the week. Group A would attend school face-to-face on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Group B would attend school face-to-face on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fridays would be Distance Learning for all students.
Low/No Spread	<b>Traditional Schedule</b> – Students will come to school for face-to-face instruction daily while taking preventative measures.

The level of community spread will be determined in the month of July and updated regularly. Students who do not participate in the Virtual Learning Academy will be scheduled for an instructional model (Virtual Learning, Alternate Schedule, or Traditional Schedule) that will be based on the level of community spread.

**QUESTION: Who are the state and local officials who will determine the level of community spread of COVID-19?**

**ANSWER:** The Clayton County School District will receive guidance from the Georgia Department of Public Health, Clayton County Board of Health, and the Georgia Department of Education.

**QUESTION: If students return to school, what will the classroom environment look like?**

**ANSWER:** Ensuring our students, teachers, faculty and staff's safety is our number one priority. The district will take the following preventive measures when students and staff are in the school building:

- Schools will have protocols regarding proper hygiene. Students and staff will frequently wash their hands.
- Students will eat breakfast and lunch in the classrooms.
- Teachers and students will practice social distancing in the classroom.
- Students' and staffs' temperatures may be taken.
- The school building will be sanitized each day and a deep cleaning process will be implemented on a regular basis - especially on Friday if it is a virtual learning day.
- School nurses will ensure that prescriptions and other doctors' orders are implemented for each student with a chronic or temporary medical condition, including asthma.
- To limit student movement in the hallways, when possible, teachers will transition from class to class.

**QUESTION: What is the role of the parent/guardian in the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**ANSWER:**

- To monitor their student's assignments completion and grades daily
- To ensure their child attends all required live classes
- To monitor their student when taking assessments and tests to ensure that no 'additional help' is provided
- To communicate with their student's teacher(s) or counselor, whenever they feel that a student is struggling or needs additional support

**QUESTION: Will my child be able to participate in extracurricular activities (Fine Arts/Magnet, clubs, athletics, etc.) while enrolled in the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**ANSWER:** Students who are enrolled in the Virtual Learning Academy will NOT be allowed to participate in school-based extracurricular activities or performance-based activities **during the school day** because they are enrolled in the Virtual Academy and not in the physical school setting. (**For example:** The Fine Arts Magnets may have two to three performances per area per semester that are held during the school day, or magnet and non-magnet schools will have auditions for All State and All County/Region Chorus, band and orchestra that are held during the school day. Students who are in the Virtual Learning Academy would not be able to participate in these during the day activities.)

Virtual Learning Academy students will have the option to participate in after-school activities (i.e. sports, clubs, cheerleading, etc.). However, parents will have to provide transportation for students enrolled in virtual learning.

**QUESTION:**

**QUESTION: Will my child be able to participate in Dual Enrollment while enrolled in the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, students may participate in Dual Enrollment. Students will have to adhere to the college's course requirements, **which may include in-person attendance**. When school starts, school counselors will be able to assist students and families with questions and concerns.

**QUESTION: Who will teach my child in the Virtual Learning environment?**

**ANSWER:** Students will be taught by a designated Virtual Learning Clayton County teacher. It is the district's goal for students to be taught by virtual teachers from their zoned school; however, it is contingent upon the number of students who enroll in the Virtual Learning Academy. Therefore, at this time, we cannot guarantee that your child's virtual teacher will come from your child's school.

**QUESTION: How is the Virtual Learning Academy different from the virtual learning experience that occurred in the Spring?**

**ANSWER:** This past spring, school systems had to abruptly move to at-home virtual learning due to shelter-in-place requirements. During this time, the focus may have been on reteaching important standards/concepts, allowing make up for assignments, and/or teaching some new concepts. The Virtual Learning Academy will be more rigorous with more expectations for students. Students will be taught using the grade-level standards and learning expectations. There will be expectations for students to be online to receive instruction from the teacher. There will be a combination of online and offline work and projects to complete and turn in with due dates. Students who are struggling to master standards/skills or have demonstrated a proficiency level below their assigned grade level may be required to attend additional live classes on a set schedule. **Teachers will give grades that will count.** The same promotion requirements for students in the traditional setting will apply for virtual learning students.

**QUESTION: How will students get additional help?**

**ANSWER:** The virtual teacher will monitor the students' progress and communicate with parents on a consistent basis. The teacher will provide additional help as needed by setting up conference times and small group sessions virtually. The teacher will also have designated office hours to provide additional assistance.

**QUESTION: How will parents and students become familiar with all expectations?**

**ANSWER:** The schools will host a **mandatory** Virtual Learning Academy orientation before school begins. Students who need an electronic device will be able to check out one if one is available. Parents will have to sign an agreement that outlines the obligations for checking out the device.

**QUESTION: Will my child be able to participate in electives courses (Fine Arts, CTAE, Physical Education, etc.)?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, students will be able to participate in some elective courses. Schedules will be finalized after we know exactly how many students will participate in the Virtual Learning Academy.

**QUESTION: Will Pre-K students be able to participate?**

**ANSWER:** While this option was included on the VLA Application, the District is in communication with the Department of Early Care and Learning to determine if PreK students will be able to participate in the Virtual Learning Academy. More information to come in July for parents.

**QUESTION: My child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan. Will his/her accommodation be provided during the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, students' IEP or 504 accommodations and IEP goals will be met.

**QUESTION: My child is on a Tier 3 Plan for RTI (in the Student Support Team process). Will he/she continue to receive remediation?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, students who were scheduled to receive interventions will receive additional services from a remediation teacher.

**QUESTION: My child is in the Gifted program or takes Advanced Placement Courses. Will he/she be able to participate in these courses during the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, students who were scheduled to receive gifted services or participate in Advanced Placement courses will be able to participate in these courses in the Virtual Learning Academy.

**QUESTION: My child is served in the English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. Will he/she continue to participate in the ESOL program?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, English Learners will be able to continue to receive ESOL services in the Virtual Learning Academy.

**QUESTION: How will my child turn in his/her assignments?**

**ANSWER:** Students who will participate in the Virtual Learning Academy will attend school online using our robust learning systems: GoogleSuite/GoogleClassroom (K-12) and Edgenuity (6-12), which host online courses and course management tools for students, teachers and parents.

**Students will use GoogleSuite / GoogleClassroom / Edgenuity to:**

- Access their online learning (GoogleMeet)
- Access their courses
- Access supplemental tools and resources
- Take assessments
- Review grades
- Manage their course schedule
- Interact with teachers and peers in an online community

\*Schools will provide an orientation for students and parents on these platforms.