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Middle School Principal

June 4, 2024

Tamaqua Area High School  
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Tamaqua Area Middle School  
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Tamaqua Elementary School  
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West Penn Elementary School  
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Dear Tamaqua Area Families,

You are receiving this information regarding potential participation in the Tamaqua Area Virtual Academy. While we feel the traditional classroom is the best platform for learning, we understand that some benefit from an alternative learning environment. Please review the included information and communicate with your child's building level principal by Thursday, August 1, 2024. We greatly appreciate hearing from families regarding your learning platform intentions. Families that do not respond, will have their children scheduled for In-person Instruction for Quarter 1 of the 2024-2025 school year.

Regards,

TASD Administration

**Welcome to the Tamaqua Area Virtual Academy! Below you will find information regarding the Tamaqua Area School District's Virtual School.**

**District Level Plans**

- Virtual options may vary by building as each level has factors that contribute to maximizing student learning.
- Students attending the In-person Learning Platform will participate daily through live virtual classes. Tardy and missing students will be marked absent.
- Students will have quarterly reviews to determine their success within the virtual learning program.

### **Building Level Plans**

#### **Tamaqua Area Elementary/West Penn Elementary Schools**

- The Elementary Virtual Academy will be presented to the students in an asynchronous method using Google Classroom. Students enrolled will receive a district issued Chromebook and textbooks and/or materials necessary to complete online lessons and assignments. Various workbooks may need to be picked up from the school building throughout the school year.
- Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy will be assigned a homeroom teacher. Each student will follow their grade level specific schedule and be required to complete all grade level coursework including mandatory participation in offered specials such as Music, Physical Education, and Art.
- Blended learning opportunities (synchronous instruction) may be offered to students during the course of the year. Synchronous instruction will be scheduled with the student and teacher. Students will be highly encouraged to join their class synchronously but this will not be required for elementary students. Asynchronous instruction will allow for the students to work at their own pace throughout the week.
- Teachers will either post the students' weekly schedule of work/assignments every Monday by 8:30 am or daily depending on the teacher/grade. All weekly work/assignments will be due every Friday at 3:30 pm whereas the daily work would be required that day or the next. Due dates are subject to change based on the length of the assignment or unexpected change in the school calendar (i.e snow day, holiday schedule). Additional time and extensions may be granted but must be arranged with the student and teacher prior to the assignment's due date.
- Attendance in the Elementary Virtual Academy is mandatory. Failure to complete work/assignments or check-in with the teacher will result in a Truancy Elimination Meetings, removal from the program, or grade level retention.

#### **Tamaqua Area Middle School**

- The Middle School Virtual Academy will be presented to the students in a synchronous method using Google Classroom. Students enrolled will receive a district issued Chromebook and textbooks and/or materials necessary to complete online lessons and assignments. Various workbooks may need to be picked up from the school building throughout the school year.
- Each student will follow their grade level specific schedule and be required to complete all grade level coursework including mandatory participation in offered specials.
- MS students will have designated periods for their five core subjects; Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Social Studies, Science, and Specials. Special Education Courses may be offered in a blended format to offer flexibility. • Upon request, blended learning opportunities (asynchronous instruction) may be offered to students that have been successful during the course of the year. Asynchronous instruction would allow for the students to work at their own pace throughout the week.

- Attendance in the Middle School Virtual Academy is mandatory. Failure to complete work/assignments or check-in with the teacher will result in a Truancy Elimination Meetings, removal from the program, and/or grade level retention. Students involved in extracurricular activities, must login on time for each class in order to be eligible to participate in their daily activity.
- Every MS student will receive an individualized schedule and locker should they return to in-school instruction.

### **Tamaqua Area High School**

- TAHS Virtual Academy will be offered to students who are choosing a virtual learning platform. All virtual learners will begin as synchronous learners through Google Classroom. All students must carry at least 5.5 credits. If a student is successful in the synchronous learning platform for one (1) quarter, they will have the option to become asynchronous learners with TAHS administration's permission.
- Virtual learning will be a quarterly commitment at TAHS unless otherwise permitted by TAHS Administration.
- All virtual learners must comply with the guidelines and procedures outlined by their instructors. Cameras may be required to be on during the entire class period. Failure to comply with these expectations may result in removal from the class.
- Any virtual learner who is failing three or more courses for two consecutive weeks will be required to have a meeting with TAHS Guidance and Administration. Virtual learning may be revoked if there is sufficient evidence that the student is not successful in the virtual learning environment.
- TAHS will provide students with a Chromebook and necessary materials required to complete online assignments.
- All TAHS virtual learners will be assigned a Homeroom that they must login to each day for attendance. Failure to login to Homeroom will be considered an absence/tardy for the day. Any student involved in extracurricular activities, must login prior to 8:30 to be eligible to participate in their activity. Students on the virtual learning platform are held to the same Compulsory School Attendance requirements as in-person learners.

### **Building Contact Information**

Tamaqua Area High School	570-668-1901	<a href="mailto:tmccabe@tamaquasd.org">tmccabe@tamaquasd.org</a>
Tamaqua Area Middle School	570-668-1210	<a href="mailto:cczapla@tamaquasd.org">cczapla@tamaquasd.org</a>
Tamaqua Area Elementary School	570-668-3306	<a href="mailto:torefice@tamaquasd.org">torefice@tamaquasd.org</a>
West Penn Elementary School	570-386-5051	<a href="mailto:torefice@tamaquasd.org">torefice@tamaquasd.org</a>