

A. Linwood Holton Governor's School Instructional Plan

Fall 2020

The A. Linwood Holton Governor's Schools (ALHGS) is a fully virtual school serving 17 school divisions and 34 high schools in Southwest Virginia. We are a leader in virtual education and our instructional plan is well designed to support student learning and the many scheduling challenges surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on schools.

Although we operate daily with an instructional process that is well suited for the challenge's schools are facing right now, we have determined there are additional measure that we can implement to make school safer and more flexible for the challenges of learning from home. The ALHGS *Instructional Plan (Fall 2020)* was developed after careful consideration of the current school reopening guidance, the available information from our 17 participating school divisions, and most importantly, the health and safety of our students and staff. We will be open to making modifications to this plan as needed and necessitated by the decisions of the school divisions in our region, VDOE and the Governor.

1. The first school day for the 2020-2021 school year will be Monday, August 17.
2. All but one of our classes is a dual enrollment course. We will continue to work with the four community colleges in our region to make sure we align to their instructional expectations.
3. Our school currently uses Canvas as our learning management system and Jigsaw for our live instruction delivery software.
4. We work directly with high school counselors and in some cases our students to align schedules. We are prepared to adapt our schedule to an asynchronous delivery when necessary due to differences in school schedules or if students are home on a fully virtual scenario.
5. Transportation and standards-based remediation are not issues that our virtual Academic Year Governor's School needs to address.
6. We will continue to work to support the learning needs of all students including those from vulnerable or special populations.
7. We normally have an in-person orientation at the beginning of each semester. However, this year we have changed our fall semester orientation to a fully virtual event. We will do so again for the spring semester if warranted.
8. We offer synchronous and asynchronous class options. The asynchronous class options are flexible and allow students to access the class when their schedule permits. There will be little need for modification of these classes with the exception of potential due

dates/exam dates. The synchronous classes pose more of a challenge for students working from home. In order to accommodate the students in the classes that may have computer access issues we record each class and make it available for viewing when the student is available. Again, due dates and exam dates may need to be modified.

9. Students will log into their classes from anywhere they have internet access and at a variety of times during the school day. Some students may take one class per semester and other may be taking 2-3 classes per semester with ALHGS.
10. For our science classes with associated labs we have invested in a variety of ways to make online labs accessible to students. We have home-based labs, online lab programs such as Labster and Mastering, and provide home lab kits with each class having a plan for lab completion. Our fall semester in-person lab days have been cancelled. We will reconsider in-person lab days in the spring if safe to do so.
11. Our plan conforms to all applicable CDC and Virginia Department of Health (VDH) guidance. Please refer to the ALHGS Infection Risk Mitigation Plan (Fall 2020) for more information.
12. ALHGS instructors are working to make sure proctored assessments will be done in a manner fair to the student but also maintains the integrity of the instructional/assessment process. The courses specific determinations will be shared with students and their school facilitators at the beginning of the semester. Adjustments will be made as needed and communicated in a timely manner to all involved. Many classes are project, paper, or research oriented and lend themselves well to the flexibility needed.
13. Equitable access to our learning management systems, virtual classroom instruction, and assessment submissions will be a top priority. We will work with the student's home high school, the student, and parent to determine the best approach to supporting each student's learning progress. In addition, each instructor will work with the students in their class to assess the student's access to internet and the needed technology to successfully complete the course.
14. When updates to the [ALHGS Reopening Plan \(Fall 2020\)](#) are necessary, they will be posted on our website and then communicated by email to our students and the schools we serve.