

# Virtual Academy Frequently Asked Questions

## Enrollment and Registration

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1. Which grade levels are eligible to participate in the Virtual Academy?
  - The Virtual Academy is open to students in grades 3 – 8.
2. How do student(s) in grades 3 – 8 apply to attend the Virtual Academy?
  - Only students who are enrolled in Calvert County Public Schools are eligible to apply to the Virtual Academy.
  - An application must be completed for each child interested in attending the Virtual Academy.
  - The application must be completed by a parent or guardian.
  - The application can be located at the bottom of Virtual Academy Homepage on the CCPS Website
3. Can current Home-Schooled students apply to attend the Virtual Academy?
  - Students who are currently homeschooled must first enroll at their zoned school using the online enrollment process.
  - Once enrolled you may apply to attend the Virtual Academy using the Online Application.
4. What happens if we re-enroll but then are not accepted to participate in the Virtual Academy? Can we go back to parental instruction and how would we do that?
  - Yes, families will have the option to return to parental instruction. Parents/Guardians can contact their school counseling office to get information on how to withdraw a student to parental instruction.
5. When can I apply to attend the Virtual Academy?
  - Virtual Academy Applications can be found on the Virtual Academy homepage located on the CCPS Website. All applications must be received by the specific deadline date indicated on the form.
  - All applications must be complete online and parents will be notified of acceptance by June 15.
6. Does completing the Virtual Academy Application guarantee my students acceptance into the program?
  - Completing the online application form does not guarantee your student will be enrolled into the Virtual Academy program.
7. Once accepted, when is the deadline to commit to the Virtual Academy for the upcoming school year? What is the last possible day to change our decision?
  - Upon notification of enrollment in the Virtual Academy, families will have 10 days to decline their enrollment.
8. Will enrollment be limited to a certain number of students?
  - CCPS does have a limited number of students enrolled in the Virtual Academy. All applications received on or prior to application deadline will be considered as a priority into the program. Applications received after the deadline will be added to the waitlist and a lottery system will be used to determine students on the waitlist and their enrollment into the program.
9. How many students per class or course can the Virtual Academy accommodate?
  - The number of students per class or course will be based on the number of applications and similar to class/course size throughout the district.
10. What are the criteria for acceptance for students at the Virtual Academy?
  - All CCPS students in grades 3 – 8 for the upcoming school year are eligible to apply.
11. What educational service options are available for students in grades PreK – 2?

- CCPS students in grades PreK – 2 will attend school face-to-face in a traditional setting at one of our 12 elementary schools.
- A critical component of early childhood academic and social-emotional learning includes instructional strategies that incorporate movement and hands-on exploration. CCPS believes that we can best meet these learning needs in a face-to-face setting for our PreK-Grade 2 learners.

These critical components include:

- i. Social-Emotional Learning - working with others, compromising, turn-taking, sharing, developmental centers, oral language/communication skills.
- ii. Foundational Academic skills – using manipulatives, fine motor (handwriting, using a pencil), and gross motor skills (hopping, skipping, leaping)

12. How easily will students be able to move back and forth between the Virtual Academy and returning to a traditional school?

- The commitment for enrollment in the Virtual Academy is for the entire school year, unless circumstances change where it is determined in the best interest of the student to return him/her to in-person instruction.

## Curriculum and Schedules

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13. Will the sample class schedule in the Virtual Academy information change?

- Virtual Academy classes will run Monday through Friday and the start and end times listed may have minor adjustments. The Virtual Academy school day is 8:00 – 3:30.

14. When will students get a course schedule?

- Students attending the Virtual Academy will be provided with their schedules at the start of the school year, similar to how schedules are shared in our traditional school setting.

15. Will honors-level courses be offered?

- At the Virtual Academy, all Core Content courses will be offered with no leveling. Instruction will be differentiated within the class to meet the varying needs of each learner.

16. When certain courses are not offered at the Virtual Academy, will students be allowed to attend classes at their zoned home school?

- Students **will not** be able to attend classes at the Virtual Academy and in a traditional building setting for courses not offered at the Virtual Academy.

17. Will any Art or Music classes be offered?

- At the elementary level, Art and Music will be offered.
- At the middle school level, Art or Music Appreciation will be offered.

18. How much time each day will students have synchronous instruction?

- Daily synchronous lessons using the current sample schedules:
  - Grades 3- 5 have 4 hours and 20 minutes plus 30 minutes of mentoring each week.
  - Grades 6-8 have 4 hours plus 30 minutes of mentoring each day.

19. What will the curriculum look like?

- The Virtual Academy will use the current CCCPS curriculum.
- Classes will be designed in collaboration with Instructional and Special Education Supervisors, CCPS teachers, and Instructional Specialists in the Department of Instruction, Special Education, and the Office of Digital Learning.

20. Where will students get digital class materials?

- The Virtual Academy will be using Schoology as their Learning Management System and Microsoft Teams as their collaboration and communication platform.

21. Who will teach at the Virtual Academy?

- Courses at the Virtual Academy will be instructed by Calvert County Public Schools teachers.

22. Will I need to pick up materials?

- Throughout the year, materials will need to be picked up from the student's designated homeschool. Information will be communicated via email about pick-up times throughout the year.

## Student Expectations

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23. Will students who are not successful at the Virtual Academy be forced back into the school building?

- Similar to a face-to-face school, student expectations for behavior, participation, and growth will be on a per-student basis with scaffolding provided as needed to maximize student success.

24. Will attendance be taken for mentoring?

- Yes, attendance will be taken during all synchronous sessions.

25. What is the expectation of students at the Virtual Academy?

- At the Virtual Academy, all students are expected to be in attendance during the synchronous learning sessions through Microsoft Teams with **cameras on and actively participating**. Students will also be expected to complete all the asynchronous work that is assigned. Students will be expected to follow the CCPS Student Code of Conduct.

## Student Support

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26. What is the mentoring program for middle school?

- Mentoring is a time when all students will be assigned a staff member that will be their mentor for the school year. During the mentoring time, staff and students will work on habits of mind, goal setting, character development, and executive functioning skills for success in an online environment.

27. How will special education services be provided within the Virtual Academy?

- The IEP (Individual Education Plans) team will implement services as outlined on the student's IEP.

28. Will synchronous lesson materials be available after the class period has ended?

- Students will have access to the instructional materials and lessons through the Schoology platform.

29. Can tests be taken virtually and how will they be monitored?

- Some assessments can be proctored virtually; however, state and some local assessments will need to be taken in a traditional school setting. Expectations and requirements for assessing virtually will be shared with students at the start of the school year.

30. Can meetings and teacher conferences be conducted virtually via Teams?

- Conferences can be held virtually unless there are extenuating circumstances that require an in-person meeting.

31. Will this Virtual Academy have its own school counselors?

- A school counselor will be assigned to support the virtual program. In addition, counselors within our school buildings often assist in supporting our student needs.

32. Will the Virtual Academy have a main office similar to other schools and have an office phone number?
- Yes, although the Virtual Academy will not have a specific office, the supervisor can be reached to address questions/concerns about the program. TJ Hill is the Supervisor of the Virtual Academy program and can be reached at (443) 550-8092 or [hilt@calvertnet.k12.md.us](mailto:hilt@calvertnet.k12.md.us).
33. Is the Virtual Academy managed and run by CCPS?
- Yes, the Virtual Academy is a part of and staffed as a Calvert County school.
34. How do club offerings work for the Virtual Academy?
- The Virtual Academy will offer select clubs and/or after-school activities, depending on the grade level. Some will be similar to those offered in the traditional setting and others will be developed from student interest.
35. Can students participate in band, chorus, or sports at their home school?
- Band, chorus, and sports at the student's homeschool **will not** be offered. Students are encouraged to participate in community music programs and/or sports.
36. Are the students in the program issued a CCPS laptop?
- All CCPS students are issued a CCPS laptop that can be used for Virtual Academy.
37. Will the teachers work from the schools or their homes?
- Teachers will be instructing students from the school buildings.
38. Will the Virtual Academy have SNOW days along with the other schools?
- The Virtual Academy will follow the CCPS school calendar.
39. Will there be a PTA/PTO for parents of students at the Virtual Academy?
- The Virtual Academy is always looking to get parents involved in the planning for their child's education and activities. Be on the lookout for more information at the beginning and throughout the duration of the school year.