

New Castle Schools *Virtual Academy* FAQ



*Our Virtual Academy will continually be monitored and assessed for needed revisions. Families will also be surveyed continually starting 3-4 weeks into the school year for additional input. If there is a corporation or school closure such as last March, **all** students will be transferred to the Virtual Academy and will retain their current teachers, classes, and instruction.*

1- What is the Virtual Academy?

The Virtual Academy is an online learning option for all k-12 students who would prefer a virtual (at home or off campus) learning experience.

2- With Masks now required for students in grades 3-12 and all students while on buses, can my child start in the brick and mortar classroom and switch if he/she has a hard time wearing a mask? (There may be “mask breaks” within classrooms while instruction is taking place, students are at least 3 ft apart and facing the same direction, per the modification of Gov. Holcomb’s executive order.)

Yes. We will certainly allow a student to go to the Virtual Academy if a student can not adjust to wearing a mask. Conversely, now that masks are required from grades 3-12, a student may shift from Virtual to brick and mortar with ease at any time. Children who change learning formats during the year will maintain their same teacher(s).

3-How is the Virtual Academy different from eLearning?

Previous eLearning days were designed for weather related absences as well as planned days each semester to allow for elementary parent conferences and secondary staff professional development. The Virtual Academy is an option for daily, real time, online instruction for students that follows our standards based curriculum. Differences in learning will revolve around: student accountability for participation, assignment completion, teacher/student interaction, and assignment content level.

Moving forward, weather related instructional days at home, planned instructional days at home and any state mandated instructional days at home will now be Virtual Learning Days and all students will follow the Virtual Academy programming for k-12.

4- How is the Virtual Academy different from other online programs?

Students enrolled in the NCCSC Virtual Academy will be assigned to New Castle teachers and receive the same standards based curriculum and instruction as students in the classroom. This will allow previously established student/teacher connections to continue and new relationships to develop with the added benefit of a seamless transition of a student’s return to brick and mortar instruction when so desired.

5-How will students receive assignments?

All students will use a school-issued chromebook. Internet access will be supported as needed. For elementary virtual students:

- All 2-12 assignments will be virtual (taped or live)
- All 2-12 assignments will be assigned on Google Classroom
- Math and ELA assigned approximately 5x weekly
- Science/SS assigned approximately 2-3x weekly
- K/1 will have standards based working packets every 2 weeks to complete. They will also have a chromebook for any online learning platforms used in the classrooms to enhance and supplement instruction.

For secondary virtual students:

- All assignments will be virtual (taped or live)
- All assignments will be assigned on Google Classroom
- Students will follow their normal schedule

6- What is the completion window for assignments?

For elementary virtual students: The elementary classroom teacher will set completion dates with each assignment.

For secondary virtual students, assignment completion dates will be the same as on site classes.

7- Who will be my student's teacher?

Each virtual student will have the teachers they would normally be assigned to in k-12 at their respective school and classrooms. Also to support the families will be 1 Elementary and 1 Secondary Virtual Coordinator to help oversee the students' programming and attendance.

8-How much contact will there be with the teacher?

All students will have contact with a teacher daily. Contact may be from recorded lessons or real time interaction in class through live streaming. Additionally, students will receive daily posting of assignments, possible emails, or through a classroom communication APP (Ex: REMIND) with the teacher.

9-What happens if my child (who is in the Virtual Academy) misses a live class?

Lessons which are streamed live will also be taped and posted on Google Classroom so that students may view them after the actual session.

10-How will parents be contacted?

For elementary virtual students: Parent check-in will occur virtually every 2 weeks by the classroom teacher. The Counselor/FSS will check in with the parent on the off week of the parent virtual meeting. Virtual Coordinator contact will occur as needed. Principal contact will occur as needed. All communication will be tracked on a common log for each building.

For grade 7 families, parent conferences will occur virtually every 2 weeks with the student's "homeroom" teacher.

Counselor/FSS will check in with the parent on the off week of the parent virtual meeting.

For grades 8-12, parent conferences will be held virtually on a rotational basis with one of the student's teachers contacting parents every week starting week 3.

Counselor/FSS will check in with the parent every 3 weeks.

Virtual Coordinator contact will occur as needed. Principal contact will occur as needed. All communication tracked on common log.

11- How will attendance be taken and tracked?

The following is subject to change. At this time, attendance will be tracked for virtual students by the student/family submitting an Attendance Google Form linked in their Google Classroom to the Virtual Coordinator every Tuesday and Thursday.

12- Can virtual students receive breakfast and/or lunch? Can they attend Latchkey after school programs?

All students enrolled in our NCCSC Virtual Academy will receive FREE breakfast and FREE lunch. Weekly meals will be available for pick up at either NCHS or Wilbur Wright Elem. on Wednesdays. 8-11 a.m. 1-2 p.m. or 4:30-5:30 p.m. Virtual families should sign up for their pick up location and time using this link which is also on the Virtual Academy registration page:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLn7rP4x0kiYEUMYout2iVEIBbzfcA5GvWhJTTFXbdMjcRoQ/viewform>

Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy may also sign up for our Afterschool Program (Latchkey).

13- Can virtual students participate in extracurricular and cocurricular activities?

Yes, the School Board voted to allow students enrolled in our Virtual Academy to participate in extracurricular activities.

14- What if my virtual student has an IEP?

All IEP students will have an IEP conference to determine the educational plan that best meets the needs of the student.