

New Castle Schools *Virtual Academy* FAQ

(updated 7/15/21)

*Our Virtual Academy will continually be monitored and assessed for needed revisions. Families will also be surveyed during the school year for additional input. **If there is a planned virtual day of learning or corporation closure due to weather, students attending in-person learning will be transferred to the Virtual Academy framework for the day and will retain their current teachers and classes. Current Virtual Students will remain with their Virtual Teacher.***

1- What is the Virtual Academy?

The Virtual Academy is an online learning option for grades 4-12 students who would prefer a virtual (at home or off campus) learning experience. Courses in grades 7-12 will be limited compared to 2020/21. Grades k-3 will be only in-person instruction unless otherwise approved by the building principal (for students in Hospital homebound, etc.). Students who enroll in the Virtual Academy may only change to in person instruction at the 9 week grading period. Students who start in-person instruction may only change to the Virtual Academy at the end of a 9 week grading period. Thus, the Virtual Academy is not for students enrolled in brick and mortar classes (in-person instruction) who miss class due to illness or vacation.

2-How is the Virtual Academy going to be different this year from the Virtual learning this past school year due to COVID?

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. Students may only switch instruction platforms at each nine weeks. For students in grades 7-12 students, there will be a limited amount of courses offered for Virtual learning this year. Juniors and seniors will be scheduled individually. A limited number of elective classes will be available as the student schedule allows. Freshmen and sophomores will receive predetermined schedules. Assessments may also need to be taken in person including formative and State summative tests.

3- 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.

4-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 4-6 assignments will be virtual (taped or live)
- All 4-6 assignments will be assigned on Google Classroom
- Math and ELA will be assigned approximately 5x weekly
- Science/SS will be assigned approximately 2-3x weekly

For secondary virtual students:

- All assignments will be virtual (taped or live)
- All assignments will be assigned on Google Classroom and /or through PLATO
- Students will follow their normal schedule as much as possible

5- What is the completion window for assignments?

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

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

6- Who will be my student's teacher?

Elementary students will be assigned a virtual teacher for their grade level but not necessarily a teacher from their home school. If elementary students return to in-person learning, they will return to a classroom at their home school. Secondary students will have the teacher they would normally have for their schedule in school.

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

All students will have daily contact with a teacher. 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 communication through a classroom communication APP (Ex: REMIND) with the teacher.

8-How will parents be contacted?

For elementary virtual students, parent check-in will occur virtually every 2 weeks by the classroom virtual teacher. The Counselor/FSS will check in with the parent on the off week of the parent virtual meeting. 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.

Principal contact will occur as needed. All communication will be tracked on a common log.

9- How will attendance be taken and tracked?

For elementary: Students will complete a daily attendance Google Form linked in their Google Classroom.

For secondary: Attendance will be taken each class period.

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

Yes, VA students may come in every day to pick up a meal that the school is serving for lunch and will also receive a breakfast for the next day. Elem. VA students can pick up at the elementary of their choice. Secondary students will be required to pick up meals at their assigned schools so that compliant meals are distributed. **Designated times for this pickup of meals will be determined and communicated to families.** Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy may also sign up for our Afterschool Program (Latchkey).

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

Yes, students enrolled in our Virtual Academy to participate in extracurricular activities.

12- What if my virtual student has an IEP?

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

13- What if my student is quarantined?

Students quarantined will stay with their same classroom teacher(s) and the teacher(s) will work with the student and family to help them stay up to date with assignments while they are out. Students will NOT switch to the virtual platform while quarantined.