

February 2, 2021

Dear Parents,

For many months, a team of Bentonville Schools educators has been planning for a post-pandemic Virtual School offering for our 5th-12th grade students. We have continually refined and improved our program since our first pilot of online classes in January 2018. The information contained within this letter is the result of that work and will provide the details of our program should you wish to consider a Virtual School option for the 2021-22 school year.

Program Requirements

Families who wish to be considered for the Virtual School option must be able to meet the following program requirements:

- Students will be present online during instruction with the Chromebook camera on in a quiet environment conducive to learning.
- Students will have an established record of strong attendance and maintain strong attendance throughout the year.
- Students will have an established record of completing work and turning in assignments on time.
- Students will maintain grade-level performance or show adequate growth toward grade-level mastery with intervention or special services support.
- Virtual students who receive related services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, etc., will access their services in a virtual format.
- Students may be required to be on-site for the completion of state-mandated testing and other services/requirements that may arise.
- Students will reside within Bentonville Schools boundaries or are approved to enroll in Bentonville Schools through the School Choice process. "Reside" means to be physically present and to maintain a permanent place of abode for an average of no fewer than four (4) calendar days and nights per week for a primary purpose other than school attendance.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to consider the criteria above as well each item on the [5-12 Parent Rubric for Choosing Virtual School 2021-22](#) as they determine the viability of a Virtual School option for their family.

Parent Contract/Student Contract

Before final admission to Virtual School, parents will be asked to review and affirm with their signature that they will be able to meet each of the expectations noted on the parent contract. Virtual students in grades 5-12 will be asked to sign a student contract of expectations.

- [2021-2022 5-12 Virtual School Parent Contract](#)

Enrollment Capacity

Our enrollment capacity for 5-12 Virtual School is as follows:

- 5-6: 448 students
- 7-8: 450 students
- 9-12: 1200 students

A lottery system will be used should we have more families request the virtual school option than we have slots available.

5-12 Virtual School Student Schedules

2021-2022 5-12 Virtual School schedules are designed to maximize instructional time and create opportunities for families to have flexibility in their student's learning. However, flexibility is only available if students are performing above a 70%, and flexibility increases as students progress through the program. For example, if student performance is above 70%, students in grades 5-6 attend live instruction four (4) days per week, grades 7-8 attend synchronous, live instruction three (3) days per week, and grades 9-12 attend synchronous, live instruction two (2) days per week. 5-12 students with grades below 70% are required to attend courses Monday through Friday to receive support and intervention. This provides flexibility, accountability, and additional support for all 5-12 students.

In addition, Virtual School students follow a traditional bell schedule to assist in time management and to facilitate on-campus options in grades 6-12 for select Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) activity classes and Ignite learning opportunities.

- [5-6 Virtual School Schedule](#)
- [7-8 Virtual School Schedule](#)
- [9-12 Virtual School Schedule](#)

Virtual School Informational Nights

We will conduct two Parent Informational Nights regarding our Virtual School offering for the 2021-22 school year. We will review the information covered within this letter, while also giving parents an opportunity to post questions. The meeting dates and times are as follows:

Date: February 9

Time: 5:00-5:30 p.m.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the Meet

Date: February 25

Time: 5:00-5:30 p.m.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the Meet

A moderator will assist with answering questions posted in the chat throughout the presentation. We will also facilitate time for questions at the end of the presentation.

Requesting Virtual School

On March 1, 2021, we will email all parents in the district a "Virtual School Application for Enrollment Form" to complete should they wish their student to be considered for Virtual School for the 2021-22 school year. Completion of the form will put a student on the list for consultation regarding placement in Virtual School. Completion of the form will not guarantee a Virtual School slot. If enrollment capacity is exceeded, a lottery system will be utilized to select applicants for enrollment. Parents will be notified of their enrollment status for Virtual School on April 15.

We hope you find the information covered within this letter beneficial as you consider the possibility of a Virtual School option for your child next year. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to partner with our families.

Warmest Regards,

[Josh Vest](#), Virtual School Administrator

Dr. Jennifer Morrow, Executive Director of Secondary Education

Dr. Matt Saferite, Executive Director of Middle Level Education