West Carroll Parish

Virtual Academy

2020-2021

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Welcome

The West Carroll Parish School Board Virtual Academy is part of the West Carrol Parish School Board's program offerings and is available to all students in grades Pre-K through 12 for the upcoming school year. This program provides students with:

- Online learning from home

- High quality curriculum (the same standards as face-to-face instruction)

- Appropriate pacing for digital learning

- Office hours for communicating with teacher(s)

- Tuition Free

What are the advantages of enrolling in WCPSB online school versus a home study program or an online vendor?

- State-Approved credits that meet Louisiana graduation requirements.

- Your child will have a certified counselor creating his/her Individual Graduation Plan and yearly schedule of coursework to ensure all Louisiana graduation requirements are met.

- Your child will earn credits from a state-approved high school, and these credits are transferable.

- Your child will have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities, including but not limited to sports, clubs, etc.

- Home study credits and many online vendors are not state-approved, so these credits do not automatically transfer. Frequently, students must "start over" with all credits earned from any unapproved school or home study program.

What Makes a Successful Online Student?

- The student has had previous success in an on-line class or transitioned well to on-line learning at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

- The student can communicate via writing.

- The student is self-motivated and self-disciplined.

- The student is willing to ask questions if problems arise.

- The student has good time-management skills.

- The student is persistent.

- The student has a good study environment.

Technology Requirements

Courses in this program are web-based and will be accessed via the Edgenuity platform for students in K to 12th grade while students in pre-K will have coursework in OWL. Supplemental courses and materials may be accessed via other online platforms as required. Students will need access to the following to be successful:

- Internet Availability

- Laptop, Tablet or Desktop computer

Enrollment Guidelines/Policies

- The enrollment period for the 2020-2021 school year will be open until July 31, 2020. To register visit: www.wcpsb.com or the West Carroll Parish Facebook page and complete the online form.

- You will be contacted by approximately two weeks before the start of school with details about the virtual classes.

- Commitment to the virtual program is for the entire first semester starting September 1, 2020 and ending January 26, 2021. The last date to transfer back to face-to-face instruction for the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year is January 26, 2021.

Student Account Agreement

- Students must read and understand the WCPSB Online and Blended Learning Guidelines and Policies as well as the WCPSB Acceptable Use Policy and discuss them with their parents/guardians. Student who are enrolled in this program must agree to the student guidelines in the section below. Any violation of the rules may result in the student account being terminated and student may face disciplinary action.

- WCPSB and its personnel will not be held liable for any claims and damages of any nature arising from the student's use or misuse of the Internet while online in the Virtual Academy Program.

Student Guidelines

- **PreK-8 students will follow these guidelines:**

- Students will complete all assignments and submit all work by timelines given by the virtual platform and/or teacher.

- Students will save all work on Google Classroom or the Edgeniuity platform, depending on the course.

- Students will use WCPSB email to communicate with assigned teacher.

- Students will contact teacher via email when extra help is needed, or questions arise.

- Students will check email at least once every 24 hours.

- Students will follow online etiquette as well as copyright policy.

- Students will be considered truant if they fail to login and engage in learning for more than 10 unapproved/non-medical days per semester. All truant students will be investigated by the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance.

- If your child is sick or having technical issues, contact must be made with the assigned teacher.

- **High school students will follow these guidelines:**
  - Students will be expected to login and engage in learning during all WCPSB school days.

  - Students will be expected to check their WCPSB email daily and use WCPSB email to correspond with teachers.

  - Students will be considered truant if they fail to login and engage in learning for more than 10 unapproved/non-medical days per semester. All truant students will be investigated by the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance.

  - If your child is sick or having technical issues, contact must be made with the WCPSB assigned teacher.

FAQ'S

- **How does a student register for the W*CPSB Virtual Academy* program?**
  Use the following to register your student/s:

  Complete and submit the online form available at www.wcpsb.com or on the West Carroll Parish Facebook page.

- **Is there a registration deadline?**

  Yes, due to the logistics, all prospective students **must be registered by 4:00 pm on July 31, 2020** to participate in the *WCPSB Virtual Academy* program.

- **Who will the instructors be in this program?**

  Depending upon the grade level and course, the instruction may be recorded lessons on Edgenuity, recorded lessons of a WCPSB teacher, or a mix of both. Virtual Academy students will have access to an assigned teacher with office hours for further assistance.

- **What curriculum will be used in this program?**

  Curriculum in *WCPSB Virtual Academy* Program will the Edgenuity curriculum aligned with the Louisiana Student Standards for K-12. Pre-K curriculum will be OWL.

- **Will there be a set schedule for the virtual setting?**

  WCPSB wants to provide flexibility for students learning in the Virtual Academy program. Sample schedules may be provided for consideration and guidance. If more assistance is needed, teachers will be available during scheduled office hours.

- **Can students in the *WCPSB Virtual Academy* switch to face-to-face instruction?**

Commitment to the *WCPSB Virtual Academy* program is for the entire semester starting September 1, 2020 and ending January 26, 2021. If a student has a situation in which he or she would want to return to on-campus classes, a request presented in writing must be submitted to the superintendent of West Carroll Parish Schools. The decision of letting student return will be on a case-by-case basis. The last date to transfer back to face-to-face instruction for the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year is January 26, 2021.

- **How does grading work?**

  Grades will be earned by the completion of quizzes, tests, exams, projects, essays, etc. Some of these are auto-graded by the Edgenuity platorm while some will be graded by the assigned teacher.

- **What does a family need at home to participate in WCPSB Virtual Academy program?**

  Students will need the following to successfully complete online coursework:
    - Internet availability, laptop, tablet, or desktop

    - Quiet space to work

- **Are devices available to those students in need?**

  Yes, devices are available. Contact your child's home school for more information if needed.

- **Will the same classes be offered virtually as they would be face-to-face?**

  Students in grades PreK-8 will be provided with courses from the four core content areas below:

    - Math

    - English Language Arts

    - Science

    - Social Studies/Social Living

Students in grades 9–12 will earn Carnegie Unit credits. Edgenuity offers courses for a student to earn a TOPS University diploma or a Jump Start diploma with limited pathway options.

A student may work from any location that has an internet connection but **shall** report to an assigned WCPSB location to take major tests, exams and required state testing.

What if a family needs internet access?

Parents should contact their child's home school for more information, if needed.

- **Can virtual program students participate in school events/activities?**

Students will be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities being held at their home school while in WCPSB Virtual Academy. Requirements for participation will be the same as those required of students attending school on-campus.

- **Is Tech Support available for families?**

WCPSB will provide technical support as needed as it pertains to the online learning.

- **If parents select WCPSB Virtual Academy, how will supports be provided for students with an IEP or 504 plan, as well as English Learners?**

Students with disabilities or limited English attending or participating in WCPSB Virtual Academy will have access to accommodations and services that naturally occur in the traditional setting. However, specific supports will be determined by the student's IEP or Section 504 plan or English Learner Accommodation Plan and take into consideration the unique nature of a virtual setting. Please note that some accommodations and services will have to be highly modified to adapt to the online educational setting. Some services may not be applicable to an online setting at all. Related services will be provided as indicated on each student's IEP.

Schools will establish a line of communication with students and their families to

regularly review assignments, curriculum, and other updates to ensure that student needs are being met. Translation technology and interpretation services for families will be in place for WCPSB Connected Classrooms where needed. The district will assess the accessibility needs of learning platforms and resources for parents and students (language, hardware, internet access, etc.), and provide necessary guidance, instructions, and support to students and their families in their home language, when possible. .

- **Will my child be required to participate in state testing?**

  Yes, your child will participate in all state testing for the 2020-2021 school year. Details on the testing location and procedures will be provided prior to each test administration.

- **Will my child be able to participate in graduation ceremonies?**

  Yes, your child will be able to participate in his/her 2020-2021 enrolled school's graduation ceremony upon meeting requirements.

- **How will attendance be handled?**

  Your child will be expected to login and engage in learning during all WCPSB school days. Students will be considered truant if they fail to login and engage in learning for more than 10 days per marking period. All truant students will be investigated by the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance.

- **How will my high school student get his/her schedule?**

  Your child will attend his/her school's registration in August. During this time, the school counselor will assist with creating and/or finalizing your child's schedule.

For further questions, please email: theard@wcpsb.com