



The Ins & Outs of VES Virtual School

How will all our classes be organized?

Using OnCampus, of course! You will find all the information you need for each day of class on the OnCampus page for the day. Your teachers will be working hard in the days ahead to make sure each class page is clear, easy to follow, and that all the resources you need for the class are linked and available right there.

Will we have a daily schedule of classes?

Yes, once classes resume, we will follow our regular class schedule with 5 classes meeting each day.

Will we have a regular 8:30 a.m. start time?

We will most likely follow a variation of the 10 a.m. start schedule. We will send you more details once final decisions have been made.

Can day students come sit in on classes?

Unfortunately, they cannot. Campus is closed, and all learning will be happening online until campus can safely be reopened.

When will classes start?

The tentative plan is to have a **first check-in to each class via OnCampus during the afternoon/evening on Wednesday, March 25**. Think of it like an online orientation. And then we will start with the regular schedule of classes the next day.

Will attendance be taken?

Yes. Your teachers will take attendance each day. You will complete a check-in at the start and end of each class (unless otherwise noted).

That said, if you will be attending Virtual School from a time zone that makes checking in at the regularly scheduled class time difficult, we will work with you to make a plan that keeps you connected without requiring you to be up until unreasonable hours. I will be reaching out to all

of you who are facing time zone challenges so that we can work out the best solution together.

What will the classes be like?

Just like in your traditional classes, all your teachers have their own style and preferences, and their online classes will reflect this, too. Each class will be different, though all will be centered around OnCampus.

What I can tell you is that we will be asking all teachers to use a mix of asynchronous learning (where you go to OnCampus to get information about an assignment, or watch a video your teacher created, and then complete the related work independently) and synchronous learning (where you are all logged in for an OnCampus discussion, for example, or collaborating in real time on a document with your classmates).

Given time zone issues and potential technology issues, the majority of your work will be presented in an asynchronous way. When a live, synchronous learning opportunity is planned, teachers will always make sure you know well ahead of time so that you can be ready to login to the right place at the right time. We will always schedule synchronous learning early in the school day so that students in different time zones can connect with the group when able.

Please also know that all your teachers will be accommodating if connectivity issues occur. Your grades will never be negatively impacted by technology issues beyond your control.

What are we going to do about AP testing?

That is a question none of us have the answer to yet. It's my hope that the College Board (which sets all the AP test dates and standards) will be reaching out to college counselors and test administrators with more information soon. So far **this is the statement** the College Board

has released regarding AP testing, but that it is likely to change as time passes. Ms. Blaum and I will be checking in daily with the College Board for updates, and we will keep you posted about plans as soon as we learn more.

What if I need extra help from teachers?

Your teachers will be available for online office hours several times a week (their schedules will be on their OnCampus pages). You may send any of us an email to set up a time for a phone call or video conference. We will be excited to give extra help and spend time with you!

For those who work with Learning Resources, your Learning Resources team will be available for extra support throughout the school day, just like usual...except now online. They will reach out to you directly before classes resume with more information about the different ways they will connect with you.

What if I need help from College Counseling?

Ms. Blaum, Mrs. Koudelka and I are excited to have virtual meetings with juniors, seniors and any student (or parents) who wish to schedule a conversation! This team will share an easy meeting request form soon.

Juniors will continue with their weekly College Counseling Seminar. I can foresee some new videos from your college counselors being added to our OnCampus page weekly! We will make sure Mrs. Koudelka doesn't make a new music video for you every week, but I'm pretty confident she will at least a couple of times.

Is Ms. Grattan available if I would like to talk with her?

Absolutely. Ms. Grattan will be available for meetings over the phone and/or online. Just send her an email to set up a time to connect with her. And if you feel like it would be helpful to speak with her prior to classes resuming, please let her know and she can set up a time to speak with you in the near future.

What if I forgot to check and see what books and materials I was supposed to bring home with me?

First, go check the OnCampus page for each of your classes soon (now would be great). Each teacher put an announcement on their main class bulletin board stating what you were supposed to bring home. If you were supposed to bring home a book that you did not, send an email to your advisor and we will try to work out a way to get it to you.

I'm concerned about my internet access. Who should I talk to about that?

Email Mr. Sedlar as soon as you can, and he will help figure out the best options for you.

I have a lot more questions. When can I ask them?

Email Ms. Csatos or Mr. Sedlar at any time and we will get back to you quickly. Also, on **Monday, March 23, from 8 - 9:30 p.m. we are going to set up a chat room for you to ask your questions about Virtual School or anything else.** You will get a link for that soon!

I hope this information helps frame your thinking about what your classes will be like in the weeks ahead. Most importantly, stay well and please know that all your teachers will be working hard to make virtual school a positive, engaging learning experience for you—one that helps us demonstrate our Academic Philosophy in an entirely new way. Of course, we will be asking for your ideas, tips and questions all throughout this transition, as your feedback is very important to us, and we are always better together!

All the best,

Mimi Csatos

Academic Dean and Director of College Counseling