

# LODI UNIFIED DIGITAL ACADEMY

**JANUARY 22, 2021**



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# ABOUT THE DIGITAL ACADEMY

Commencing with the 2021-22 school year, the Lodi Unified Digital Academy (Digital Academy) will provide families with a unique opportunity for online learning. Similar to the current Distance Learning model in our District, the Digital Academy will offer both synchronous and asynchronous learning. This option will allow students to engage in a learning process similar to an in-person daily schedule but in a remote setting.

The content of the Digital Academy is aligned to grade level standards and will provide instruction that is at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. Instruction will be provided to students by Lodi USD teachers and adopted Lodi USD curriculum will be used.

The Digital Academy will be offered under the umbrella of the District's independent study program. Grades K-6 will be offered under the Valley Robotics Academy and grades 7-12 will be offered under the Independence School. However, the Digital Academy will be a separate program.

The Digital Academy will include, but will not be limited to:

- Interactions, instruction, and check-ins between teachers and students through the use of computer or communications technology.
- Video or audio instruction in which the primary mode of communication between the student and teacher is online interaction, instructional television, video, telecourses, or other instruction that relies on computer or communications technology.
- The use of print materials incorporating assignments that are the subject of written or oral feedback.
- The use of hands on materials, as appropriate.



# Enrolling in the Digital Academy

**Students who are motivated to work independently and who have had success in the current Distance Learning Model will thrive in the Digital Academy.**

Space at the Digital Academy will be limited. Current Lodi USD students will receive priority, if applications are submitted by February 24, 2021. A lottery system will be used for those who sign up by the February 24, 2021 deadline.

After February 24, 2021, there will be a waitlist for all interested students (including both in District and out of District students).

Applications can be submitted until the program reaches capacity. Once students are selected by lottery or waitlist, parents/guardians will be notified.

## **Current Lodi USD students:**

To submit an application for your child, please sign into the Aeries Parent Portal.

Upon signing in, please select Student Info > Application for Digital Academy Enrollment Lottery. Enter your name and the best phone number to reach you during the day and click the box to submit.

This must be done for each student you wish to be included in the lottery.

## **Non-Lodi USD students:**

Please submit your application via the form on our website at <http://bit.ly/39ZTinw>.



# Un-Enrolling from the Digital Academy

Enrollment in the Digital Academy should be considered a yearlong commitment but the District will seek to accommodate requests for students to return to in-person instruction.

Spots will not be held at your child's previous elementary school of enrollment. Your child may return as space allows or can attend a different school with space.

Middle and high school students will be able to return to their previous school, however, they may experience schedule/class changes.

If you would like your child to return to the previous school of enrollment, please contact our Elementary or Secondary Education Department.

## Instruction

The day will be similar to the regular school schedule and will include daily live interactions with teachers (and other staff such as counselors, psychologists, and librarians, as appropriate) and peers.

Instructional time is based on the time value of assignments, as determined, and certified to, by the teacher or other certificated staff providing the service. Teachers will use a variety of strategies and provide breaks, as appropriate, so that students are not online all day.



# Instructional Materials

Parents will be informed about the process to pick up instructional materials such as textbooks, packets, and supplies. If you do not have a Chromebook or if it is not working, please contact the Valley Robotics Academy or Independence School as soon as possible. It will be important that students have easy access to these items at home each day.

# Attendance

On time daily attendance and participation is expected just as it is for in-person instruction. Positive attendance is based on work produced/completed.

Parents/guardians should continue to follow the school procedures for reporting an absence. Teachers will document student attendance and regular procedures will be used to address issues related to attendance. Continued absences can result in truancy procedures.

# Grades

Students will receive grades per Lodi USD report card process. Teachers will communicate expectations to students.

For high school students, a passing grade is required to earn credits for each course. Students must earn the required credits in order to graduate from high school.



# Student Support

Teachers will do their best to identify students who may need support. If you notice that your child is struggling with issues such as depression, anxiety, loneliness, or frustration, please let the teacher or administrator know. We have an outstanding team of counselors and support staff who can provide assistance. A list of mental health and wellness resources can also be found on our website at [www.lodiusd.net/mentalhealth](http://www.lodiusd.net/mentalhealth).

The District's Community Liaisons and Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) staff provide outreach to foster youth to determine any additional needs. CWA staff will provide assistance to foster and homeless youth on issues regarding Chromebooks, school supplies, and Internet access.

## Meal Service

Meals will be available on a full pay, reduced price, and free basis as done during in-person instruction, depending on the school of residence. If you have questions about qualifying for reduced price/free meals, please contact your child's school of residence.

More information about meal service will be provided at a later date.



# ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Digital Academy curriculum is aligned to grade level standards and will be provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. Students will receive virtual instruction from their assigned classroom teacher. In addition, music and physical education teachers will provide instruction on a similar schedule to in-person instruction.

The Digital Academy may offer, but will not be limited to:

- Interaction, instruction, and check-ins between teachers and students through the use of a computer or communications technology.
- Video or audio instruction in which the primary mode of communication between the student and teacher is online interaction, instructional television, video, telecourses, or other instruction that relies on computer or communications technology.
- The use of print materials incorporating assignments that are the subject of written or oral feedback.



# Daily Instruction

Students will have daily live interaction with certificated employees and peers for purposes of instruction, progress monitoring, and maintaining school connectedness.

A day can include any of the following:

- Whole class online together
- Teachers working with small groups
- Teachers working with individual students
- Other staff members working with students as appropriate
- Students working independently online
- Students working independently offline

## Consistent Instructional Time

The class schedule will be similar to in-person bell schedules and learning activities will occur during this time. Teachers will utilize a variety of strategies to keep students engaged and will incorporate breaks for students. Students need to arrive to their virtual class on time as they would for in-person classes. Teachers will provide consistent schedules and establish routines and expectations to help students stay connected in a virtual format.

## Grades

Grades will be given and grading expectations in each class will be communicated by the teacher.



# Sample School Day

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8:00 A.M.  | Whole class synchronous Google Meet  |
| 8:15 A.M.  | Math synchronous instruction   |
| 8:40 A.M.  | Students released to independent study, Dreambox, Kahn Academy, and etc.                                       |
| 9:00 A.M.  | Small group synchronous meetings; 20 minutes each  |
| 10:00 A.M. | Break/recess   |
| 10:15 A.M. | English Language Arts synchronous instruction  |
| 10:45 A.M. | Students released to independent study, Amplify, iRead, Kahn Academy, etc.                                     |
| 11:00 A.M. | Small group synchronous meetings; 20 minutes each  |
| 12:00 P.M. | Lunch  |
| 12:30 P.M. | Science or Social Studies synchronous instruction  |
| 12:55 P.M. | Students released to independent study   |
| 1:15 P.M.  | Break/recess   |
| 1:30 P.M.  | Office hours with teacher; students provided physical activity tasks and assist students with independent work |
| 2:30 P.M.  | Independent practice activities  |



# MIDDLE SCHOOL: GRADES 7-8

Google Classroom will be used as the course shell to post assignments and information for students. Other digital tools may also be used in the Digital Academy.

The Digital Academy may offer, but will not be limited to:

- Interaction, instruction, and check-ins between teachers and students through the use of a computer or communications technology.
- Video or audio instruction in which the primary mode of communication between the student and teacher is online interaction, instructional television, video, telecourses, or other instruction that relies on computer or communications technology.
- The use of print materials incorporating assignments that are the subject of written or oral feedback.



# Daily Instruction

Students will receive daily live interaction with certificated employees and peers for purposes of instruction, monitoring progress, and maintaining connection to school.

This interaction may take the form of internet or telephonic communication, or by other means permissible under public health orders.

The content will be aligned to grade level standards that is provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction.

# Consistent Instructional Time

Instructional time will be synchronous.

- Students are expected to attend the Digital Academy during school hours and follow the communicated class schedules. Attendance will be taken in each class period.

# Grades

Grades will be given and grading expectations in each class will be communicated by the teacher.



# HIGH SCHOOL: GRADES 9-12

Google Classroom will be used as the course shell to post assignments and information for students. Other digital tools may also be used in the Digital Academy.

The Digital Academy may offer, but will not be limited to:

- Interaction, instruction, and check-ins between teachers and students through the use of a computer or communications technology.
- Video or audio instruction in which the primary mode of communication between the student and teacher is online interaction, instructional television, video, telecourses, or other instruction that relies on computer or communications technology.
- The use of print materials incorporating assignments that are the subject of written or oral feedback.



# Daily Instruction

Students will receive daily live interaction with certificated employees and peers for purposes of instruction, monitoring progress, and maintaining connection to school.

This interaction may take the form of internet or telephonic communication, or by other means.

The content will be aligned to grade level standards that is provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction.

# Consistent Instructional Time

The Digital Academy will be synchronous.

- Students are expected to attend the Digital Academy during school hours and follow the communicated class schedules. Attendance will be taken in each class period.
- Students will have a full schedule of classes and will use the normal course selection process.
- Many, but not all, high school courses will be offered through the Digital Academy.
- Many honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes may be offered.
- Students will have an opportunity to take in-person classes for courses not offered digitally, including Career Technical Education (CTE) and other courses.



# Grades

Grades will be given during and grading expectations in each class will be communicated by the teacher.

# Extracurricular Activities

Because students will be co-enrolled in the Digital Academy and their school of residence, they will be able to participate in extracurricular activities (including athletics) through their school residence.

# Graduation

Because students will be co-enrolled in the Digital Academy and their school of residence, they will graduate from their school of residence.



# COMMUNICATION

The District is committed to consistent communication with staff, families, students, and the community.

The District uses the following means to communicate with our community:

- Phone calls
- Text messages
- Emails
- Mobile app push notifications
- Lodi USD website
- Peachjar flyers
- Social media
- Regular mail

It is vital that our District has the most up-to-date information to ensure our parents/guardians and staff receive our communication.

- If you are a parent/guardian and have not yet signed up for an Aeries Parent Portal, please contact your child's school site.
- If you are a parent/guardian and need to update your contact information, please either contact your child's school or log onto the Aeries Parent Portal.
- If you are a staff member and need to update your contact information, please log on to Employee Self Serve.

For more information on notifications from the District, please visit [www.lodiUSD.net/notifications](http://www.lodiUSD.net/notifications).

