

Virtual Academy Frequently Asked Questions

Enrollment and Registration

1. Which grade levels are eligible to participate in the Virtual Academy?
 - The Virtual Academy is open to students in grades 3 – 12 starting in the 2021 – 2022 school year.
2. How do student(s) in grades 3 – 12 in the 2021 – 2022 school year apply to attend the Virtual Academy?
 - Only students who are enrolled in Calvert County Public Schools are eligible to apply to the Virtual Academy.
 - An application must be completed for each child interested in attending the Virtual Academy.
 - The application must be completed by a parent or guardian.
 - [Virtual Academy Application](#)
3. Can current Home Schooled students apply to attend the Virtual Academy?
 - Students who are currently homeschooled must first enroll at their zoned school using the online enrollment process, information on enrolling can be found here: [Online Registration](#)
 - Once enrolled you may apply to attend the Virtual Academy.
4. What happens if we re-enroll but then are not accepted to participate in the Virtual Academy? Can we go back to parental instruction and how would we do that?
 - Yes, families will have the option to return to parental instruction. Parents/Guardians can contact their school counseling office to get information on how to withdraw a student to parental instruction.
5. When can I apply to attend the Virtual Academy for the 2021-22 school year?
 - Online registration will open on May 10, 2021, and close on May 28, 2021 (11:59 pm).
 - Parents will be notified of acceptance by June 30, 2021.
6. Once accepted, when is the deadline to commit to the Virtual Academy for the 2021-2022 school year? What is the last possible day to change our decision?
 - Upon notification of enrollment in the Virtual Academy, families will have 10 days to decline their enrollment.
7. Will there be exceptions for my child to return to traditional school after they have the COVID vaccine?
 - Applications for the Virtual Academy must be submitted by May 28, 2021 (11:59 pm). Any student interested in attending should apply. Current CCPS students will not have another opportunity to apply to attend the Virtual Academy during the 2021 -2022 school year.
 - Upon notification of enrollment in the Virtual Academy, families will have 10 days to decline their enrollment.
8. Will enrollment be limited to a certain number of students?
 - At this time, CCPS does not plan to limit the number of students enrolled in the Virtual Academy. However, if it is determined that enrollment will exceed our staffing, a lottery process will be used. All applications submitted before the closing deadline of May 28, 2021 (11:59 pm) will be included in the lottery.
9. How many students per class or course can the Virtual Academy accommodate?
 - The number of students per class or course will be based on the number of applications and similar to class/course size throughout the district.
10. What are the criteria for acceptance for students at the Virtual Academy?
 - All CCPS students in grades 3 – 12 for the 2021-2022 school year are eligible to apply.

11. Do you anticipate the Virtual Academy to be a permanent addition to the education offered in Calvert County?
- Yes, the Virtual Academy will become a permanent part of CCPS educational services.
12. What educational service options are available for students in grades PreK – 2?
- For the 2021-2022 school year, CCPS students in grades PreK – 2 will attend school face-to-face in a traditional setting at one of our 12 elementary schools.
 - A critical component of early childhood academic and social-emotional learning includes instructional strategies that incorporate movement and hands-on exploration. CCPS believes that we can best meet these learning needs in a face-to-face setting for our PreK-Grade 2 learners. These critical components include:
 - i. Social-Emotional Learning - working with others, compromising, turn-taking, sharing, developmental centers, oral language/communication skills.
 - ii. Foundational Academic skills – using manipulatives, fine motor (handwriting, using a pencil), and gross motor skills (hopping, skipping, leaping)
 - At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, CCPS will revisit the PreK-Grade 2 instructional setting options for possible inclusion in the Virtual Academy for the 2022-2023 school year.
13. How easily will students be able to move back and forth between the Virtual Academy and returning to a traditional school?
- The commitment for enrollment in the Virtual Academy for the 2021-2022 school year is for the entire school year.

Curriculum and Schedules

14. Will the sample class schedule in the Virtual Academy information change?
- The CCPS schedules are not finalized and may be altered between now and the start of the school year.
 - Virtual Academy classes will run Monday through Friday and the start and end times listed may have minor adjustments.
15. When will students get a course schedule?
- Students attending the Virtual Academy will be provided with their schedules at the start of the school year, similar to how schedules are shared in our traditional school setting.
16. Will honors-level courses be offered?
- At the Virtual Academy, all Core Content courses will be offered with no leveling. Instruction will be differentiated within the class to meet the varying needs of each learner.
17. What AP courses will be offered at the Virtual Academy for high school students?
- Some AP courses will be offered at the high school level. A full course list will be published on May 10, 2021. The following link will take you to the list of courses: [High School Information](#)
18. When certain courses are not offered at the Virtual Academy will high school students be allowed to attend classes at their zoned home school?
- Students will not be able to attend classes at the Virtual Academy and in a traditional building setting for courses not offered at the Virtual Academy.
19. Can seniors who attend a partial day during their senior year apply for the Virtual Academy?
- Yes, seniors who are only taking a partial schedule during their senior year may apply and attend the Virtual Academy. CCPS students dually enrolled with the College of Southern Maryland will

need to coordinate so that their CSM courses do not conflict with synchronous sessions in the Virtual Academy.

20. Will any Art or Music classes be offered?

- At the elementary and middle levels, Art and Music will be offered.
- At the high school level, Music appreciation will be the Fine Arts option.

21. How much time each day will students have synchronous instruction?

- Daily synchronous lessons using the current sample schedules:
 - Grades 3- 5 have 4 hours and 20 minutes plus 30 minutes of mentoring each week.
 - Grades 6-8 have 4 hours plus 30 minutes of mentoring each day.
 - Grades 9-12 have 3 hours plus 30 minutes of mentoring each week.

22. Can students attend CTA in person and have their other classes with the Virtual Academy?

- Yes, High school students will be able to attend CTA in person and during the other portion of their day, they would be able to attend the Virtual Academy.

23. What will the curriculum look like?

- The Virtual Academy will use the current CCCPS curriculum.
- APEX Learning will be used for content delivery in some middle and high school courses.
- Classes will be designed in collaboration with Instructional and Special Education Supervisors, CCPS teachers, and Instructional Specialists in the Department of Instruction, Special Education, and the Office of Digital Learning.

24. Where will students get digital class materials?

- The Virtual Academy will be using Schoology as their Learning Management System.

25. Who will teach at the Virtual Academy?

- Courses at the Virtual Academy will be instructed by Calvert County Public Schools teachers.

26. Will I need to pick up materials?

- Throughout the year, materials may need to be picked up from a CCPS designated location.

Student Expectations

27. Will students who are not successful at the Virtual Academy be forced back into the school building?

- Similar to a face-to-face school, student expectations for behavior, participation, and growth will be on a per-student basis with scaffolding provided as needed to maximize student success.

28. Will attendance be taken for mentoring?

- Yes, attendance will be taken during synchronous sessions.

29. What is the expectation of students at the Virtual Academy?

- At the Virtual Academy, all students are expected to be in attendance during the synchronous learning sessions through Microsoft teams with cameras on and actively participating. Students will also be expected to complete all the asynchronous work that is assigned. Students will be expected to follow the CCPS Student Code of Conduct.

Student Support

30. What is the mentoring program?

- Mentoring is a time when all students will be assigned a staff member that will be their mentor for the school year. During the mentoring time, staff and students will work on habits of mind, goal setting, and executive functioning skills for success in an online environment.
31. How will special education services be provided within the Virtual Academy?
- The IEP (Individual Education Plans) team will implement services as outlined on the student's IEP.
32. Will synchronous lesson materials be available after the class period has ended?
- Students will have access to the instructional materials and lessons through the Schoology platform.
33. Can tests be taken virtually and how will they be monitored?
- Some assessments can be proctored virtually; however, state and some local assessments will need to be taken in a traditional school setting. Expectations and requirements for assessing virtually will be shared with students at the start of the school year.
34. Can meetings and teacher conferences be conducted virtually via Teams?
- Conferences can be held virtually unless there are extenuating circumstances that require an in-person meeting.
35. Will this Virtual Academy have its own guidance counselors?
- A school counselor will be assigned to support the virtual program.
36. Will the Virtual Academy have a main office similar to other schools and have an office phone number?
- Yes, details will be shared at a later time.
37. Is the Virtual Academy managed and run by CCPS?
- Yes, the Virtual Academy is a part of and staffed as a Calvert County school.
38. When students are seniors, will they graduate with seniors from their geographic "home" school? Prom? Homecoming?
- Yes, Students will graduate from their home school. There will be some opportunities that virtual students will be able to attend. Those details will be shared at a future time.
39. How do club offerings work for the Virtual Academy?
- The Virtual Academy will offer select clubs and after-school activities. Some will be similar to those offered in the traditional setting and others will be developed from student interest.
40. Can students participate in sports at their home school?
- Students in grades 9 – 12 can participate in interscholastic sports at their zoned home school.
41. Do the students keep their current CCPS issued laptop?
- Some students may be able to keep their current CCPS issued laptops and others will need to exchange their laptops. Our IT department will be in touch with families that will need to exchange their devices.
42. Will the teachers work from the schools or their homes?
- While this has not yet been decided, we are looking for spaces for teachers to work from school.
43. Will the Virtual Academy have SNOW days along with the other schools?
- The Virtual Academy will follow the CCPS school calendar.
44. Will there be a PTA/PTO for parents of students at the Virtual Academy?
- This will be based on the interest of our parents. There will be opportunities for parent involvement.