

South Texas ISD

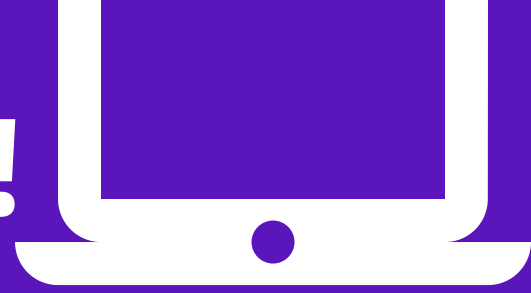
**Virtual
Academy**

GRADES 6-12

**Virtual
Academy
Family Guide**

2022-2023

Welcome Back!



Virtual Academy Guide

Welcome to South Texas ISD's Virtual Academy. The Virtual Academy is designed to provide an alternative education setting for students that thrive in a virtual setting. Our school day consists of a combination of direct synchronous instruction with independent asynchronous work opportunities. All lessons are taught by South Texas ISD Virtual Academy teachers located at our Mercedes complex.

We know that the virtual setting may take some adjusting by our Phoenix families; however the staff at the Virtual Academy is here to provide guidance every step of the way. Please refer to this handbook to help guide your family through the virtual experience. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school principal at 956.514.4201.



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Virtual Learning Best Practices

Creating a learning environment

Find a place to work that:

- Is Quiet. Avoid busy areas in the home that may distract student's learning.
- Has good internet connection,
- Has a table or desk and a comfortable chair.

Establish Routines

Establish good habits:

- Follow your daily schedule.
- Keep your devices charged and accessible.
- Set time for exercise and fitness goals.
- Establish time away from electronic devices.
- Complete daily work as soon as possible.

Your Learning

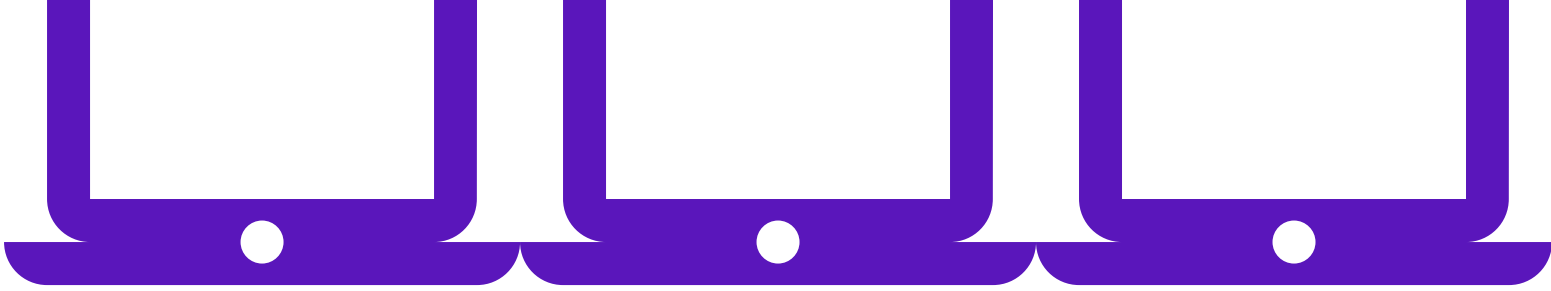
Be active participants in your education:

- Get to know your schedule
- Keep school calendars handy
- Manage your time wisely. Create a calendar with deadlines and due dates.
- Create goals!

Be Safe

Connect Safely with Friends:

- Be an active participant in class discussions
- Be polite, respectful and appropriate in your communications.
 - Follow school guidelines when interacting with others.
 - Report unkindness and other problems promptly.



Virtual Academy Learning Schedule

The Virtual Academy's daily schedule will be a combination of direct, synchronous instruction and independent, asynchronous instruction. During direct instruction, students are required to attend classes live via NewRow, the K12 integrated video conferencing feature. Students must have their cameras on, be visible within the video frame, and be active participants. During independent asynchronous periods (academic mentoring), students may be asked to video conference with their teachers for mentor meetings, participate in social emotional learning activities, hear school announcements, attend small or independent classroom support, or work independently on assignments.



South Texas ISD

**Virtual
Academy**

GRADES 6-12

2022 – 2023

BELL SCHEDULE

PERIOD	TIMES	M
Teacher Conference	8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	45
Student Support	8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	15
1 st Period	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	90
2 nd Period	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	90
Lunch	12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	30
Student Support	12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	30
3 rd Period	1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	90
4 th Period	2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	90
Tutorials / Athletic Practices / Club Meetings	4:05 PM – 5:05 PM	

A/B Schedule

2022-2023 A/B Academic Calendar

July 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

South Texas ISD Board of Directors approved on December 8, 2021.

100 Med High Drive, Mercedes, TX 78570 • (956) 565-2454 • www.stisd.net

Always Innovating

South Texas ISD

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 6-12

First Day of Instruction	Aug 8
Last Day of Instruction	May 18
INSTRUCTIONAL PERIODS	
Semester 1	88
Q1 Reporting Period (Oct 6)	43
Q2 Reporting Period (Dec 20)	45
Semester 2	84
Q3 Reporting Period (Mar 10)	41
Q4 Reporting Period (May 18)	43
Total School Days	172
Minutes of Operation	
Q1 Reporting Period	19,350
Q2 Reporting Period	20,250
Q3 Reporting Period	18,450
Q4 Reporting Period	19,350
Total Minutes	77,400
TEA requires a minimum of 75,600 instructional minutes.	
Exam Early Release Days	
Dec 15-20, May 15-18	
DISTRICT HOLIDAYS	
Labor Day	Sep 5
Columbus Day	Oct 10
Thanksgiving	Nov 21-25
Christmas	Dec 21-Jan 6
Bad Weather Day	Feb 13, Apr 10
Spring Break	Mar 13-17
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
District Staff Development	
Aug 1-3, Oct 7, Jan 23 Feb 24, May 22-25	
Campus Staff Development	
Aug 4, Nov 18	
TEACHER WORKDAYS	
Aug 5, Jan 9, May 19	
ASSESSMENT DAYS	
STAAR, AP & IB Assessment Days	
New Teacher Academy	
July 28-29	

Parent Academic Conferences:

Student/Mentor/Parent meetings will be conducted virtually at the end of Quarters 1-3. Student progress and goals will be discussed with parents. Your child's mentor teacher will set up appointments with you and your child.



Attendance

Students will be expected to attend all synchronous periods, Monday through Friday. Students are expected to have cameras on, be visible within the camera frame during synchronous instruction, and actively participate in the lesson. Teachers will utilize a system that monitors presence at live synchronous virtual lessons including minutes in attendance. Students must be present 90% of the instructional period. Students that do not meet the criteria will be counted absent.

Students must be present 90% of the school year to receive course credit. Teachers will record attendance in Infinite Campus. Parents/guardians are encouraged to check and monitor their child's attendance and grades through the parent portal in Infinite Campus. Should a student need to be absent, please call or email the attendance office on the morning of the absence. Excuses for absences, medical or other, must be emailed to Mrs. Sandra Reyes, Campus Secretary, at **sandra.reyes@stisd.net**.



Grades

The Virtual Academy grading policy can be located on our website.

<https://virtualacademy.stisd.net/admissions/grading-guidelines>

Resources



Technology

Students will be assigned a technology kit to support our students as they attend class. Assigned technology includes:

Laptop
Ipad with case and keyboard
Digital Pen
Internet Hotspot
Graphing Calculator (8th-10th grade)

Technology Support

Need assistance with technology equipment, websites, or platforms?
Call or email our Technology Help Desk.

Mr. L. Solis

Computer Support Specialist

Luis.Solis@stisd.net

956.514.4283

Counseling Support

We are here to assist you!

Counseling questions should be directed to our school counselor including:

Student Schedules
Social/Emotional Concerns
Challenges
Celebrations

Mrs. J. Sandoval

Virtual Academy Counselor

Julissa.Sandoval@stisd.net

956.514.4201

Important Resources



Virtual Academy Website	<u>https://virtualacademy.stisd.net</u>
Infinite Campus Parent Portal	<u>Click here to access Parent Portal</u>
Student Handbook	<u>Link found here</u>
Student Code of Conduct	<u>Link found here</u>
Grading Policy	<u>Link found here</u>
Faculty Directory & Syllabus	<u>Link found here</u>
Parent/Student/Teacher Compact	<u>Link found here</u>
Stride K12 Login	<u>https://login-learn.k12.com/#login</u>