

# IMESD Virtual Learning Academy FAQ

## What is the Virtual Learning Academy?

*The Virtual Learning Academy is a comprehensive online K-12 school experience available through your local district coordinated by the InterMountain Education Service District. Students will remain enrolled in their local district, while having the opportunity to learn online.*

*K-6 students are enrolled in full-time online learning, while 7-12 students have the opportunity to register in a hybrid mode with online classes and district based classes or 100% online. All classes are taught by local licensed teachers. Students will have access to district learning labs for extra support and enrichment opportunities.*

## What will K-6 learning look like?

*Students in kindergarten through 6th grade will have the opportunity to select from two different learning options. Google Classroom learning pathway offers synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities for students. Students have daily live, synchronous meetings with their teacher in a whole group, small group, and individual student learning sessions. Students are also expected to complete asynchronous learning as independent work. Students learning via Google classroom will be taught all subjects including math, reading, writing, science, social studies, and PE. Students will have art and music rotated throughout the school year.*

*Students looking for a flexible learning schedule should enroll in the self-paced learning options through Edgenuity-IS (K-5) and Edmentum (6th). All grade levels in this option are monitored by a local licensed teacher. Students selecting this learning option will be enrolled in grade level core subjects including math, english language arts, science, social studies, and PE. Students will have the opportunity to pick an additional optional elective each semester. This option allows for more flexibility at home learning schedule.*

*Both learning options require an active learning coach. A virtual learning coach is a parent or caregiver that is dedicated to supporting the academic and social emotional learning success of a virtual learning student. This is an active and intentional role. The learning coach is responsible for providing each virtual learning student a quiet space to learn and attend virtual meetings if applicable. They are also responsible for helping each virtual learning student maintain learning tools and turning in assignments on time. The learning coach is an active team member with the virtual teacher to help make virtual learning a success.*

## What will 7-12 learning look like?

*Students in 7th through 12th grade will also have the opportunity to select from two different learning options, as well as the flexibility to combine online and district based classes. It is strongly recommended that students select one learning platform to take all their courses via the virtual learning academy. Students who combine courses from Google classroom and Edmentum are less successful than students who take all their courses in a single platform.*

*The Google Classroom option is a teacher guided asynchronous learning pathway with the opportunity for synchronous learning as needed. All Google Classroom courses are designed and taught by local certified teachers. Google Classroom offers a more personalized and rigorous learning opportunity. Many Google Classroom teachers have established office hours or schedule individual times to meet with students for extra support. Students are required to maintain adequate progress and demonstrate attendance in each of their courses during each scheduled school day.*

*Edmentum is a predetermined curriculum monitored by local certified teachers. This option allows for more flexibility in an at home learning schedule. Students are required to maintain adequate progress and demonstrate attendance in each of their courses during each scheduled school day.*

*Both options require an active learning coach. A virtual learning coach is a parent or caregiver that is dedicated to supporting the academic and social emotional learning success of a virtual learning student. Students in 7th -12th grades still need an active and dedicated learning coach to help establish an at home learning schedule, support in time management, and monitoring of assignment due dates. The learning coach will be an active team member with the virtual teachers to help make virtual learning a success.*

### **What support will my student have?**

*Students will have support from their local school district for extra academic support and enrichment opportunities. Students will have access to weekly learning labs and coordinated learning with the STEM Hub for science experiences.*

*Students and families will have access to school counselors for help with any work or questions about credits, transcripts and graduation.*

*All special plans, including special education, talented and gifted, English Language Development, and 504 will be supported by the local district and followed by teachers within the online program.*

### **How does attendance get tracked?**

*Student engagement (progress or work completion) in online learning is required to count as attendance. Attendance can happen through a variety of engagement efforts including attending synchronous learning meetings, completing Edmentum lessons, emailing the teacher, sending the teacher a message in the Rooms app, turning in assignments, or taking assessments. Students must demonstrate four days of attendance per week to be marked as present for the entire school week.*

*Students in 7-12 grades must demonstrate four days of attendance in each course per week. Students will be marked absent in individual courses if they do not demonstrate four days of attendance in each individual course. For example, if a student only demonstrates attendance in their Biology course two days during the week, they will be marked present for two days and marked absent for two days for the week.*

*Maintaining regular daily attendance in all courses is vital to being a successful student in a virtual learning environment. Students who do not maintain regular attendance are more likely to fall behind in coursework.*

### **How does grading work?**

*Teachers will establish due dates for all graded coursework and assessments in determining a student's grade and proficiency on grade-level standards. At the middle school and high school level, failure to complete assigned coursework will result in failing the class, loss of credit, and not maintaining on-track status or athletic eligibility.*

### **When can my student access the online learning/classroom?**

*One of the benefits of online learning is that students can access their classes when they are ready to learn or families have scheduled time to support their learning. Online classes can be accessed 24/7 and provide a flexible solution to learning. Students and parents can plan to focus on one or more classes per day. However, students and parents should be aware that online learning does take focused*

time (about 30 minutes per class per day on average), and they should have well-established routines to be successful. Online learning is hard and requires significant time, attention, and commitment. - it is not for everyone. While flexible, all students are required to complete assigned coursework within each semester to avoid negative impacts to grades and credit particularly at the middle school and high school level.

### **What are the expectations for my student in online learning?**

*Attend: Maintain regular attendance as per described above.*

*Daily Class Time: Plan on at least 30 minutes a day per subject or class. More time may need to be given to mathematics and english language arts. More time may also need to be given for project-base assignments. Virtual learning is more flexible, but not easier. Establishing a consistent at home learning schedule is important.*

*Complete Coursework: Our goal is to help students move towards grade-level proficiency and graduation. All work has to be completed by the end of each semester to earn grades, credits, maintain eligibility, and maintain on-track status.*

### **Will my student be able to participate in afterschool/extracurricular activities?**

*Yes! All online students are fully eligible to participate in any of the athletic or extra-curricular activities with their local schools.*

### **What technology support will we receive?**

*Each student is loaned a Chromebook and charging cable. The IMESD tech support crew will be available via email and phone for any issues that arise with your Chromebook.*

*Parents will be required to complete the Technology Use Agreement and financial liability forms to access technology from their resident school district. Replacement Chromebooks will not be provided until families resolve fees from lost, stolen, or damaged technology.*

### **How do I enroll my child?**

*Contact the school district to be enrolled and register for courses.*

### **Who do I contact with questions?**

*For assignment, grading, and attendance questions parents will contact the teacher of the class.*

*For concerns about learning lab options, changing or dropping classes, IEP/504 supports, sports, and extracurricular options, contact your district assigned liaison.*

*For any other questions please reach out to [contact@imesdvla.org](mailto:contact@imesdvla.org)*