



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Richland One Elementary K-5 Virtual School Program

The goal of Richland One Virtual Learning Program is to provide children and their families with high-quality virtual learning experiences necessary for school success.

Q. Can you tell me more about the new Richland One Virtual School Program?

A. Yes! Richland One is excited to offer this new enhanced virtual school program to elementary students in grades kindergarten through five who meet the criteria of a student who is equipped to learn in a digital learning environment. This program will be much like a traditional school setting and will be conducted by certified and highly qualified staff who will offer a variety of research-based and varied virtual learning experiences for all types of learners. Students will be expected to complete and submit all assignments. Staff will provide ongoing support, communication, and guidance so that your child will be successful with his/her virtual education.

Q. What will the daily schedule be?

A. The daily schedule will be from 7:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. with extended virtual after-school learning opportunities from 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Students will follow the virtual learning program schedule that consists of four days a week of virtual learning and one face-to-face learning day. On face-to-face learning days, transportation is provided.

Q. If my child is accepted, what will the classes be?

A. Approximately two classes per grade level with a combination of synchronous (live) and asynchronous (independent) learning activities for all types of learners. Learners include gifted and talented, special services, and English language learners. The VSP will offer related arts (music, art, physical education) social and emotional activities, and a support schedule. Students in grades K-3 will receive approximately 2-3 hours of virtual instruction and, students in grades 4-5 will receive about 3-4 hours of virtual instruction per day. It is essential to adhere to a flexible and balanced schedule that promotes rigor and responsibility and opportunities for socialization, collaboration, and community.

Q. If I choose the Elementary Virtual School Program for my child will s/he remain assigned to our zoned school?

A. No, students in the Virtual School Program will be enrolled in this separate virtual learning program. All Richland One policies, procedures, and schedules will be the same for the Virtual School Program.

Q. Does my child have to remain in the Virtual School Program for the entire year?

A. The preference is that your child remains enrolled in the program. If a family requests a transfer to his/her zoned school, we will make every effort to work towards a semester transition release if appropriate space is available. If approved, the family will follow the procedures of their zoned school to include transportation.

Q. How do I know if my child is “right” for this program?

A. A more detailed list of [characteristics of an online learner](#) is available but, if your child meets most of these qualifications, he/she may be a good fit for this program.

My child would be a good candidate for the VSP because he/she:

- completed all prerequisite coursework;
- can read, write, and communicate at or above grade level;
- can work independently and meet the demands of a rigorous schedule of online learning;
- has no record of behavioral issues that are disruptive to the learning environment; and
- has access to technology with an internet connection.

Q. What are the steps to applying, and how is my child selected?

A. Here is a summary of the steps necessary for the VSP:

- Complete an online application and registration information process.
- Upload all requested document, preferably all at the same time as submitting individual documents slow the process.
- Watch a virtual Parent Information Session and complete the survey.

When all of the items above are complete, a committee of administrators and educators will evaluate the application and accept or deny the request for attendance via letter/email.

If there is a waiting list, a lottery selection process begins. It is encouraged to complete and submit all requested information as soon as possible.

Q. If I completed an application this past spring or summer for my child’s traditional zoned school, do I need to complete the Virtual School Program application?

A. Yes, parents requesting their child attend the Virtual School Program must complete the above steps of applying. (Steps and information will be forthcoming on Richland One website)

Q. If my child is selected to attend the VSP, can a sibling attend as well?

A. Special accommodations can be made for a sibling to attend if they meet the characteristics’ criteria and space is available.

Q. What curricula will be used while my child is in the Virtual School Program?

A. Teachers will follow the South Carolina state standards and use a combination of the District’s curriculum units of instruction and research-based and vetted instructional resources.

Q. What if we do not have a computer or internet access in our home?

A. The district’s 1:1 initiative is being expanded. All VSP students in grades K-5 will receive devices this school year. Hot spots will support families without internet connectivity. The district is exploring other ways to provide support to students who live in areas without service.

Q. What support will be provided to help students and parents gain confidence in using their devices and accessing digital content used in the classroom?

A. Training materials such as student- and parent-friendly videos, documents with screenshots, and simple directions are being developed and posted to our district’s website. Print copies will be made available in our schools, as well.

Q. What role will parents play in the VSP?

A. As your child’s first teacher, parents will become partners with your child’s teachers. We encourage parents to communicate and collaborate with their child’s teacher to ensure academic success. [Click here](#) for more information on how you can start partnering!

Q. What should we do if we have technical issues during my child’s participation in the Virtual School Program?

A. When technical issues arise, the District has a competent and caring IT team that is ready and willing to assist. Additional information will be provided on the Richland One website and communicated to parents through digital communications to ensure parents and students know how to reach someone for IT support and times IT support will be accessible.

Q. What will the instructional schedule be?

A. Students will have online instruction four days a week and face-to-face instruction one day a week. The face-to-face learning day is for assessments, conferences, extra help, or service-learning project work. The daily instructional schedule will look very similar to a traditional day in that all content will be research-based, engaging, and rigorous. The same Richland One District Calendar will be the same for families in the virtual school program.

EXAMPLE DAILY TEACHER REMOTE LEARNING SCHEDULE | GRADES 3-5

This schedule outlines 2.5-3.5 hours of directed learning and 2-3 hours of flexible learning time

Time Frame	Activity
7-8:30 a.m.	Morning prep, upload feedback for students, morning PLC/meetings
8:30-9 a.m.	Morning activities with students (synchronous video meetings or phone calls, review daily plan and highlight key learning for the day, culture and relationship building activity)
9-10 a.m.	[ELA block] Lead synchronous and/or asynchronous instruction, provide feedback, follow up 1:1 with students via phone calls, recorded videos, etc.
10-10:15 a.m.	Quick planning break
10:15-11:15 a.m.	[Math block] Lead synchronous and/or asynchronous instruction, provide feedback, follow up 1:1 with students via phone calls, recorded videos, etc.
11:15-12:30 p.m.	Lunch; emails; opportunity for PLC; planning
12:30-1:45 p.m.	[TBD academic block and flexible learning time] Lead synchronous and/or asynchronous instruction, provide feedback, follow up 1:1 with students via phone calls, recorded videos, etc., deliver RTI, offer independent learning activities (e.g., free read, current events, self-guided projects)
1:45-2 p.m.	Quick planning break; upload future lessons; upload feedback
2:-2:30 p.m.	End-of-day wrap-up (e.g., synchronous video meetings or phone calls, SEL activity, review/preview of learning, review of homework)
2:30-3:30 p.m.	Parent check-ins and office hours; upload/double-check lessons are uploaded for next day; check student work submissions; grade and provide feedback; progress monitoring; identify students who need support

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE 3-5

Q. How will I know what assignments are due?

A. For all learners, it is critically important that parents are informed about learning expectations. With this in mind, teachers in the Virtual School Program will consistently communicate with parents regarding their child’s upcoming learning experiences and individual progress. We encourage our parents to become learning partners in their child’s education.

Q. Will students sit at computers for long periods listening to lectures?

A. No, the Virtual School Program will adhere to a schedule that incorporates synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences for kindergarten through five learners. Students will receive engaging and differentiated content with a sufficient number of brain breaks to ensure that they are not sitting at their computers for extended periods. Teachers will include independent hands-on activities that do not require the use of a device.

Q. How will I know if my child is progressing?

A. Teachers will provide information regularly. The staff will post and communicate specific office/conference hours to establish and build a collaborative partnership for the benefit of your child. On face-to-face learning days, scheduled appointments may be allowed if time allows.

Q. Will good attendance matter during the Virtual School Program?

A. Yes, just as important as regularly attending a traditional school, it is the same for the VSP. All District policies regarding attendance or consistent tardiness will apply.

Q. Will my child be tested as much in the Virtual School Program?

A. Yes, assessments are a critical part of the planning process, and data will determine your child's individual learning needs. The children will follow the same testing schedule as a traditional school. Teachers will regularly assess using formative and summative assessments coupled with differentiated activities that will help paint a clear picture of what your child needs to academically, intellectually, and socially grow.

Q. Will meals/snacks available? What will be the process be?

A. Yes, it is vital to feed a child's mind and body that improves focus for learning. A meal/snack plan and schedule will be forthcoming.

Q. What school supplies/materials will I need?

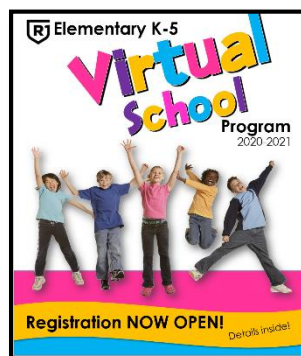
A. Before the beginning of the new school year, a class list of supplies will be available so that you can prepare for school. A printer should be available for your child as he/she may need to submit digital products of learning.

Q. My child has an IEP. How will his/her needs be addressed?

A. Students with Disabilities (SWDS) will have equal access to the general curriculum through Richland One's Virtual School Program. Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams will meet to determine student services. IEPs are evaluated and amended to meet the individual needs of students

Who do I contact for questions or additional information?

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APPLY TODAY!

Limited space available