Secondary Virtual School

Handbook

WELCOME TO THE SECONDARY VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM!

Richland One welcomes you to our Virtual School Program (VSP)! **We Are Richland One**, a nationally accredited school district building on a rich history and tradition of excellence. We expect your experience in VSP to be the same level of excellence you have come to expect from us.

The R1 Secondary Virtual School Program is a year-long program for students in **grades 6-12**. The goal of the Richland One Virtual School Program is to provide children and their families with high-quality virtual learning experiences necessary for school success.

In the **R1 Secondary Virtual School Program**, SC Certified content teachers provide instruction through the Imagine Learning platform. While students are required to work mostly independently and asynchronously, students in grades 6-12 are required to report to the Waverley Administration Building once per week for instruction. On days when students learn virtually, they are expected to log into each class daily to meet attendance requirements. Students receive timely teacher feedback in response to their coursework and homework. Instruction in the virtual programs is aligned to South Carolina and Richland One academic standards. All students are provided with a device. Families are responsible for providing Internet access and a supportive virtual learning environment at home.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Secondary Virtual School Program will accept students based on available slots. Students already enrolled in the program this year will have the option to choose to remain in the program. **(Exception: Students who did not make academic progress and/or didn't follow program guidelines were either dismissed during the year and/or have not been accepted back this year and must attend their zoned school.)**

The application window opens from mid-December until January 31st. The lottery is held in February. Students who are accepted into the program are notified in March.

Completion of the application does not guarantee acceptance. The lottery system will be implemented, and a waiting list may become necessary. Parents and students are required to attend a student and parent orientation session, if accepted. This date will be determined after the lottery is held and prior to the start of the program.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Students must reside in Richland County and be enrolled in a Richland School District One school.
- Students must have demonstrated academic success in the previous school year (Recommend grades of C or better in all courses).
- Students maintained good attendance in the previous year.

- Students must have the desire and ability to work in a variety of formats.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

In conjunction with their teachers, we encourage the parent/guardian to support their child through the virtual learning process by monitoring their engagement of instruction and their completion of assignments and assessments.

- Daily attendance is critical for student success. Therefore, it is important for parents/guardians to ensure their child is logging in to each class each day.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to create a dedicated space for their virtual learning environment.
- A partnership between students, parents/guardians and teachers is essential to ensure an open line of communication which is critical to student success in the virtual school program.

CURRICULUM

- Course selections are based on analysis of student transcripts and required courses for graduation. School counselors and administrators conduct reviews to ensure students take courses required for grade promotion and/or graduation.
- District-provided online curriculum (Imagine Learning) and other recommended resources are used for instruction. Note: Honors courses for grades 6-8 are not offered in the secondary virtual program. However, the high school credit courses that are offered at the middle school level are offered in the secondary virtual program (i.e. Algebra I, English I, etc.)
- Advanced level courses, such as AP, must meet guidelines as outlined by CollegeBoard.
- Available Career and Technical Education (CTE) and elective courses are scheduled and offered as available in the middle and high school Master Course Catalogs (MCC). Delivery models and formats are modified for virtual implementation. Some pathways/courses may not be available in a virtual setting.
- Select courses in visual and performing arts that can be taught virtually may be provided to students.
- Students may be approved to take courses that meet promotion/graduation requirements that are offered by VirtualSC. Participation and courses must be approved by the principal.
- Students enrolled in JROTC programs at grades 11 and 12 are permitted to continue these courses at their zoned schools. This requires coordination with the counselors at the high school and approval prior to schedules being finalized.
- Students may be provided with the opportunity to take dual enrollment courses. These courses must be approved by the principal prior to the student enrolling.
- Students who qualify for special services (IEPs, ESOL, GT, etc.) are provided access to the services. Models and formats may be modified to be implemented virtually; however,

some services may only be provided face-to-face and cannot be provided in the virtual program.
- Eligible students have access to district intervention tools.
- Students must meet with the school counselor at the zoned school to schedule courses.

*Potential College Athletes: Some online courses may not be approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse. Students will need to consult the school's counselor for more information.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Virtual students who receive related services such as speech therapy or resource services, will be required to report to the Secondary Virtual School Program site or meet online for services at the times designated by the Special Education teacher or consultant.

GRADING

Student grading is in accordance with district grading procedures and the SC State Uniform Grading Policy.

Students are expected to maintain grade-level performance or show adequate growth toward grade-level mastery with intervention or special services support. Students who show signs of having difficulty maintaining effective work habits or are unable to successfully master the content with a 70% or better by the end of the first nine-weeks, will be recommended to return to their zoned school for face-to-face instruction.

For example, by the end of the first nine weeks, students should be at a 25% or higher target rate of completed assignments with a grade of 60% or higher. If the student is below 20% by the end of the nine-weeks and the grade is lower than 60%, they may be dismissed from the virtual program.

If a student's performance is above 70%, students will continue the 1 to 1 virtual sessions with their virtual teachers weekly. If grades are below 70% at any time throughout the academic year, it will be mandatory for students to report onsite for additional support once a week until grades and pacing improve to 70% or higher.

ATTENDANCE

The Secondary Virtual School Program follows the district's school year calendar. Student attendance is monitored and tracked daily in PowerSchool. Students are required to login to each class daily to meet attendance requirements.

Students are provided in-person instruction 25% of the time through the following opportunities:
- Onsite learning (scheduled times for high and middle school students)
- Chats with teachers

- 1 on 1 conferences
- Onsite testing
- Individual or small group tutoring

**Students will be expected to log into each course daily to ensure attendance requirements are met.

Students who are required to receive intervention support, must be available to attend on-site sessions. Students report onsite for in-person learning using the schedule below:

High School (Grades 9-12)
- Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)
- Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

Transportation is not provided. This schedule does not include required sessions for students needing intervention services. Students are required to dress appropriately and sign-in when reporting onsite.

TRUANCY

State laws and regulations determining absences and truancy are applicable for our virtual program. Staff members will follow policy regarding continued absences.

When excessive absences become a pattern, the coordinator or his/her designee will schedule an in-person attendance improvement meeting with the parent/guardian and student to develop a plan designed to improve student attendance. Students who do not improve attendance after the conference may be removed from the virtual school program and required to return to their home school.

TESTING

Students are tested according to District and State guidelines. VSP students are required to report in person for district, state and federally mandated testing.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students can participate in afterschool extracurricular activities/sports at their homeschool if they meet program eligibility requirements.

Secondary Virtual School Program

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