



Virtual Learning Option

St. Mary Parish Public Schools offers a Virtual Learning Option that provides an alternate learning environment without losing the traditional benefits of our public school system.

The SMP Virtual Learning Option is a tuition-free, virtual learning option for public school students in grades 6-12. SMP Public Schools also provides all the tools necessary to get started. Students and parents must agree to the device and internet use agreement and pay the \$15 district technology fee. Any student enrolled in SMP Virtual Learning Option can participate in the arts, sports, and other programs at the school in his/her home attendance zone. In the VLO, only courses that meet graduation requirements are offered. Dual Enrollment and Honors courses are not available through VLO. Requests for DE or honors courses while in VLO will be reviewed and approved by the CAO.

Enrollment

Students must first enroll in the school in his/her home attendance zone. Home attendance zones can be verified [here](#) or by visiting <https://www.stmaryk12.net/parentsstudents/basic-information/attendance-zones>.

Once enrollment is complete with the zoned school, the student can then apply for the Virtual Learning Option.

Enrollment will occur in the month of July and at the end of each grading period.

To be accepted:

- Express legitimate reason for wanting to attend school virtually
- Must have Learning Coach-sign contract

Learning Coach

To ensure student success, all Learning Coaches agree to:

- **Oversee Progress:** Actively monitor academic growth and stay current with program communications (emails, calls, and texts).
- **Manage Deadlines:** Ensure all assignments and intervention protocols are completed and submitted on time.
- **Collaborate:** Partner with teachers to reinforce concepts and support the student's needs without taking over the instructional role.

Learning Coach contract must be agreed to and signed to enroll in VLO.



Orientation

Parents and students must attend a mandatory in person orientation.

At orientation, VLO program will be discussed, devices will be issued, usernames/passwords will be given. Students will also take diagnostic testing that day.

Testing

All VLO students will be required to come in person to take exams. This includes end of unit exams during the school year and any state required testing, such as LEAP testing.

Students will be responsible for scheduling time with a specialist to come in to take end of unit exams.

Students will be contacted to schedule any required state testing.

The "Return to In-Person" Clause

Students who fail Edmentum course(s) in a grading period will be put on academic probation and receive a letter. If any course is failed during the following grading period, an in-person conference will be scheduled with CAO, Secondary Supervisor, and VLO Coordinator for the student to be transitioned back to their home zoned school.

Asynchronous Learning (Edmentum/Teams)

- Edmentum – the primary delivery vehicle for core curriculum and electives.
- Courses not in Edmentum will be in Teams.
- If a virtual schedule must be hybrid, determination will be made based on availability of courses at home school. Transportation will not be provided.

Synchronous Touchpoints (Microsoft Teams)

- Targeted, small-group intervention and mandatory tutoring for struggling students.
- Virtual office hours.



Monitoring

Student use of school-issued technology is monitored using Classwize. Classwize is a web-based software that allows faculty to monitor student activity in real-time and allows teachers and students to communicate through chat. Monitoring of student activity is done as a safety precaution and to help keep students on task. Students are REQUIRED to use their school-issued device for all school-related activities.

At no time does the teacher have the ability to turn on a student's camera or microphone.

Services for Students with Disabilities (504 or IEP)

- Students with disabilities will receive accommodations and modifications as indicated on their IEP to the best extent possible in a virtual environment.
- This will be reviewed by the SPED office.
- 504 students will receive accommodations and modifications based on their 504 plan to the best extent possible in a virtual environment.
- IEP/504 meetings are conducted annually. Parent and student involvement is an important part of IEP/504 plan development/review.

Virtual/Remote Work Settings

- Students must maintain virtual settings and behaviors that are conducive for instruction and that minimize distractions.
- Students must use a district-issued device while participating in virtual/remote instruction.
- Students are expected to have a designated work area in their home cleared of any distractions. A desk or table is required when meeting virtually with a teacher.
- Working stations must be free of foreign objects that are not being utilized for instruction.
- The device being used for instruction must be positioned to allow teachers to observe both the working space and student.
- When possible, students are encouraged to work in areas that are isolated from other individuals and pets.
- Additional electronic devices should not be kept or used within the working area. This includes televisions, phones, earphones, and other devices that may provide distractions from learning.
- Students will follow daily guidance from their teachers regarding best methods of communicating and participating during virtual learning.
- No student will be allowed to record any teacher during instruction.
- Students do not have to wear uniforms when meeting with the teacher virtually. However, modest clothing is required.