VLA

Barry Tatum Virtual Learning Academy

Orientation

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026 - 2027



ACCOUNTABILITY



RESPECT



CONSISTENCY

In ALL that we do!

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Welcome to Barry Tatum Virtual Learning Academy

This Student Orientation Handbook outlines the expectations for students in the Barry Tatum Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) and provides important policies, rules, regulations, guidelines, and procedures from the Wilson County School System.

Please Note: This handbook isn't an exhaustive list of all student policies. For a complete list, refer to the Wilson County Board of Education Policies available online at https://www.wcschools.com. Policies and procedures in this handbook may be updated; the most current version will always be the online publication. Printed versions are considered unofficial copies.

General Information

The Wilson County Schools Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) is a public, comprehensive school for grades 6-12. We offer a standards-based curriculum aligned with the Tennessee Board of Education standards. All instruction is provided by certified teachers in a dynamic digital learning environment developed by Wilson County Schools. Our goal is to provide innovative, alternative educational opportunities that match the rigor of traditional school instruction.

The VLA offers:

- **Core content** (English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, and Social Studies) and select exploratory classes for grades 6-8.
- **High school courses** for required core content and a selection of elective courses to ensure students meet graduation requirements.

We use Schoology, accessed via ClassLink, as our central Learning Management System. VLA students will also access approved software applications and programs through ClassLink.

Contact Information

Barry Tatum Virtual Learning Academy

415 Harding Drive Lebanon, TN 37087

Phone: 615-453-3400

Enrollment

Only students residing within the Wilson County Schools' district are eligible for VLA enrollment.

Enrollment Process

- Students must complete an Out of Zone waiver.
- Applications for VLA enrollment are annual.
- Out of Zone waivers will be made available online and provided to parents/guardians at the time of enrollment.
- Late applications will not be accepted or considered.
- Students moving into the Wilson County Schools' district or those who missed the Out of Zone waiver deadline due to hardship may apply for Out of Zone approval. Please contact the VLA Principal for more information on this process.

Enrollment Conditions

- Parents and students must agree to all student and parent expectations as a condition of enrollment.
- Acceptance into the VLA requires a one-year commitment from both the student and parent/guardian.
- Continuation in the VLA is based on successful completion of the previous school year and approval from the supervising VLA Principal.

Academic Progress & Placement

- If a student demonstrates poor academic progress, the VLA principal may request a meeting to discuss support methods.
- If a student does not demonstrate adequate progress, the VLA Principal may revoke the virtual option privilege, and the student will return to their school of zone.

Program Guidelines and Expectations

Families choosing the VLA must meet the expectations outlined in this Student Orientation Handbook for the duration of the 2026-2027 school year. Students wishing to transfer may withdraw from the VLA and return to their school of zone.

Student Privacy and FERPA

Families participating in the VLA are expected to follow **federal and state laws regarding student privacy** and the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**. This includes:

- Refraining from recording lessons.
- Not posting photos or videos of lessons with other students visible online or on social media.

Student Expectations

Virtual Learning Academy students are required to:

- Dedicate appropriate daily time to learning, following district time-on-task schedules and teacher guidance to maintain course pacing.
- Check Schoology, Skyward, wilsonk12 Gmail, and other online platforms daily for class information, assignments, and resources.
- Exclusively use the device issued by Wilson County Schools for online learning.
- Respond to teacher communication within 24 hours during the school week.
- Know their username(s) and password(s) for all instructional resources.
- Be an active participant in virtual assignments and discussions as assigned by the teacher.
- Submit all assignments by the established due dates.
- Complete individual assignments, quizzes, tests, etc. following the same academic honesty policy as if present in a traditional school setting. Academic dishonesty, including the inappropriate use of tools and resources, may result in disciplinary action from VLA administration.
- Students are responsible for content posted through their login and account activity. Sharing or using usernames and passwords with others, or using others' usernames and passwords, is strictly prohibited. Students that share usernames and passwords may potentially receive disciplinary action.

Student Engagement & Support

Consistent student engagement is essential for success in the Virtual Learning Academy. We measure engagement through:

- Pacing in the course.
- Participation in online sessions.
- Timely completion of assignments.
- Verbal and written response to teacher communications.
- Whole group and small group participation.

If a student does not fully engage in the course, the following steps will be initiated:

- **Step 1:** A Parent/Teacher/Student conference (digital, in-person, or by phone) to identify areas of need.
- **Step 2:** Should disengagement continue, a VLA administrator will request a meeting with the student and parent.
- **Step 3:** If disengagement persists, the student may receive potential disciplinary action from VLA administration.

WCS Code of Conduct, Policies, and Procedures

Virtual Learning Academy students are expected to adhere to all **Wilson County Schools policies, procedures, the WCS Code of Conduct** (found in the Wilson County Schools 2026-2027 Parent & Student Handbook), **WCS Acceptable Use Guidelines for technology**, the **WCS Student Device Agreement** and the **WCS Dress Code**.

Students who violate any Wilson County Schools' policies, procedures, agreements, guidelines, or the student code of conduct may be disciplined according to the WCS Code of Conduct.

Tennessee State Law: Student Accommodation Requests

In addition to following Wilson County Schools' policies, Tennessee State law requires Barry Tatum Virtual Learning Academy administration to notify parents of the following regarding student accommodation requests:

Pursuant to the Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 832:

- A Wilson County Schools employee shall not knowingly give false or misleading information to a parent regarding a student's gender identity or intention to transition to a gender differing from the sex listed on their official birth certificate (or certificate issued upon adoption, if issued near birth).
- If a student requests an accommodation intended to affirm their gender identity (e.g., a different name or pronoun that doesn't correspond with the sex on their birth certificate), the employee must report the request to a school administrator, who will then report it to the student's parent.

Chromebook Expectations and Technology Support

Students must use their **Wilson County Schools-issued device** for all Virtual Learning Academy classes, assignments, and assessments. These devices are synced with **Go Guardian**, a WCS technology resource that helps teachers support students. **Personal devices are not permitted** for Virtual Learning Academy use; students are required to use the Chromebook provided by the VLA.

Technology Support

Should you encounter issues with the Chromebook, student username/password, or technology programs, please contact **Mr. Lowery and Mr. Freeland** via email for assistance or to schedule a Chromebook exchange. Remember to include **both individuals** in your communication.

Charlie Lowery Assistant Principal 615-453-3400 ext. 2426 loweryc@wcschools.com

Cory Freeland Assistant Principal 615-453-3400 ext. 2403 freelandc@wcschools.com

Internet Requirement

Virtual Learning Academy students must have **adequate internet service** capable of supporting all daily instructional technology programs. Students without sufficient internet connectivity will **not be eligible to enroll** in the VLA. If a student experiences internet disruptions or connectivity issues, the student will receive an unexcused absence.

Zoom Expectations

Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) teachers will conduct **synchronous lessons via Zoom**.

- Students are required to **attend a Zoom meeting for each class daily**, with links conveniently available in Schoology.
- **Cameras must be on and appropriately positioned** so teachers can clearly see the student's face.
- Failure to have your camera on or a visible face will result in **removal from the Zoom meeting and the student will receive an unexcused absence for the class period.**

Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) teachers will also assign asynchronous assignments to students as well.

- Asynchronous assignments must be submitted by 3:00 each day.
- Assignments must be completed in full.
- Failure to submit assignments by the scheduled due date and time will result in the student receiving an unexcused absence for the class period. Timely submission of all assignments by the designated due date and time is required. Submitting a blank or otherwise incomplete assignment will not be considered a valid submission and will result in both an absence for the corresponding class period and a grade of zero.

Attendance Verification with Zoom Logs

Zoom meticulously records entry and exit times for all participants. In cases of attendance questions (tardies or absences), the VLA administration will review these **Zoom time-stamp logs**. For instance, if a student enters, leaves, and re-enters, each action is logged:

- Student Entered Zoom: 7:45 a.m.
- Student Exited Zoom: 7:46 a.m.
- Student Entered Zoom: 7:55 a.m.

Designated Learning Area

For optimal learning and to ensure student privacy, Virtual Learning Academy students need to have a **designated learning area** for their daily synchronous Zoom lessons.

- This environment should be **free of distractions and background noise**.
- Importantly, **no other individuals (children, adults, etc.) should be visible** in the background of the student's screen. This policy is in place to protect student privacy and safety.
- To maintain an engaged and distraction-free classroom, we require all students to attend Zoom meetings from a stationary, appropriate workspace. Consequently, attending class from a vehicle is prohibited; students who do so will be removed from Zoom and receive an unexcused absence for the class period.

Administration, Faculty & Staff

BTA Administration

- **Shaun Caven, Principal** (Ext. 2401) | cavens@wcschools.com
- **Cory Freeland, Assistant Principal** (Ext. 2403) | freelandc@wcschools.com
- **Charlie Lowery, Assistant Principal** (Ext. 2426) | loweryc@wcschools.com
- **Kristie Buhler, Assistant Principal** (Ext. 7464) | buhlerk@wcschools.com

Faculty & Staff List/Contact Information

- **Stephanie Cozart, Administrative Assistant** (Ext. 2410)
    - cozarste100@wcschools.com
- **Dana Ables, SIS & Registrar** (Ext. 7501)
    - ablesdan100@wcschools.com
- **Larissa Thompson, Bookkeeper** (Ext. 2432)
    - thomplar100@wcschools.com
- **Robbie Goad, School Counselor** (Ext. 2437)
    - goadrob100@wcschools.com
- **Laura Cromer, Graduation Coach** (Ext. 2404)
    - cromerl@wcschools.com
- **Stephanie Richardson, School Nurse** (Ext. 2405)
    - richaste100@wcschools.com
- **Julianne Robertson, School Resource Officer (SRO)** (Ext. 2406)
    - robertsonja@wcschools.com

- **Middle School ELA:** Kimberly Miller (Ext. 2421)
    - millerkn@wcschools.com
- **Middle School Math:** Jayme Stewart (Ext. 2427)
    - stewartj@wcschools.com
- **Middle School Social Studies:** Cynthia Kirkwood (Ext. 2422)
    - kirkwoodc@wcschools.com
- **Middle School Science:** Brad Udulutch (Ext. 2427)
    - udulutchb@wcschools.com
- **English:** Kalin Carpenter (Ext. 7435)
    - carpekal100@wcschools.com
- **Math:** Lauren Brian (Ext. 7432)
    - brianl@wcschools.com
- **Math:** Bradly Vickers (Ext. 7484)
    - vickebra100@wcschools.com
- **Science:** Gaileen Otis (Ext. 7656)
    - otisg@wcschools.com
- **Social Studies:** Savannah Hale (Ext. 7483)
    - halesav100@wcschools.com
- **PE/Lifetime Wellness:** Anna Sharpe (Ext. 7454)
    - sharpea@wcschools.com
- **Art:** Sloan Upshur (Ext. 7424)
    - upshurc@wcschools.com
- **Business:** Robin McKamey (Ext. 7511)
    - mckamrob100@wcschools.com
- **Spanish:** Makenna Futtrell
    - futremck100@wcschools.com
- **Exceptional Education:** Cynthia Dushek (Ext. 7341)
    - dushekc@wcschools.com
- **ESL:** Ely Clark (Ext. 7541)
    - clarkeli100@wcschools.com

Daily Schedule

Middle School Schedule (Grades 6-8)

Middle school students will operate on a six-period schedule comprising Math, English Language Arts (ELA), Science, Social Studies, Focus, and an Exploratory period. All students will be assigned to a Focus block, which will be used for remediation, enrichment, discussions on career interests, and the integration of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) components.

- **Block 1:** 7:45 - 8:45 a.m.
- **Block 2:** 8:50 - 9:50 a.m.
- **Block 3:** 9:55 - 10:55 a.m.
- **Lunch:** 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- **Block 4:** 11:35 AM - 12:35 p.m.
- **Block 5 Focus:** 12:40 - 1:40 p.m.
- **Block 6:** 1:45 - 2:45 p.m.
- **Office Hours:** 2:45 - 3:00 p.m.

High School Schedule (Grades 9-12)

High school students will operate on a block schedule. Each semester, students will have four content area blocks and a Focus period. The Focus block is designed for remediation, enrichment, ACT preparation, and discussions on career interests, while also integrating Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) components. Additionally, all seniors will have the Civics Assessment noted on their schedule, which is a required graduation assessment, not a scheduled class.

- **Homeroom:** 7:45-8:00 a.m.
- **Block 1:** 8:05 - 9:20 a.m.
- **Block 2:** 9:25 - 10:40 a.m.
- **Block 3:** 10:45 AM - 12:00 p.m.
- **Lunch:** 12:05 - 12:35 p.m.
- **Block 4:** 12:40 - 1:55 p.m.
- **Focus:** 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Events and Awards

Throughout the academic year, the Virtual Learning Academy hosts two events and awards ceremonies. While student attendance isn't mandatory, these occasions present a significant opportunity for socialization and peer interaction. Students can engage in various games and activities, and a complimentary lunch (typically pizza, chips, cookies, and beverages) is provided.

Food Allergies: Should your child have a food allergy, please contact Mr. Freeland for assistance with accommodations. Our objective is to ensure the safe and inclusive participation of all students in our events.

Attendance Requirements and Verification

The VLA provides 180 days of instruction per academic year. Students are expected to follow a paced synchronous and asynchronous learning schedule, totaling six and one-half (6 ½) instructional hours per day, with individual and collaborative assignments due each week.

Attendance Verification

Students must follow the daily virtual schedule set for their grade band by the Wilson County Schools Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction.

For **synchronous class attendance**:

- Missing 15 minutes or more of a class period will result in an absence.
- Missing less than 15 minutes of a class period will result in a tardy.
- Repeated tardiness or leaving synchronous sessions early may lead to disciplinary action by the VLA administration.

For **asynchronous class attendance**:

- Asynchronous assignments must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. each day.
- Assignments must be completed in full.
- Failure to submit assignments by the scheduled due date and time will result in the student receiving an absence for the class period. Timely submission of all assignments by the designated due date and time is required. Submitting a blank or otherwise incomplete assignment will not be considered a valid submission and will result in both an absence for the corresponding class period and a grade of zero.

Skipping Policy

Per the student handbook, skipping is classified as a Category 1–13 offense and is defined as: **the unauthorized or unexcused absence from a scheduled class or school without obtaining consent from the proper school authority.**

Important distinction: Skipping differs from a full-day absence. A full-day absence is recorded when a student misses 50% or more of the school day. Skipping occurs when a student misses less than 50% of the day and is marked absent from an individual class only—not the entire day.

Enforcement Procedure

BTVLA will implement the following progressive steps for unexcused class absences (missing a class without a parent/provider note):

Step 1: Initial Warning

When a student accrues 3 or more unexcused class absences, the Assistant Principal or Principal will:

- Contact the parent/guardian
- Issue a formal warning

Step 2: Skipping Conference

If the student accrues an additional 3 or more unexcused class absences after Step 1, the Assistant Principal or Principal will:

- Contact the parent and student
- Hold a mandatory skipping meeting with all parties

Step 3: Discipline Notice & Ongoing Consequences

If the student continues to skip classes after the Step 2 meeting, the Assistant Principal or Principal will:

- Contact the parent/guardian to inform them of potential school discipline
- The student remains subject to school discipline for any subsequent skipping incidents

Students may face escalating consequences for continued skipping after Step 3.

Wilson County Schools Attendance Policy

For a comprehensive overview of attendance policies, visit:
https://www.wcschools.com/Domain/2041

State Compulsory Attendance Laws

Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-3001 requires students between the ages of 6 and 17 to attend school each day. This means a student must attend school from the time they turn 6 until their 18th birthday. Parents are responsible for ensuring their child attends school, and failure to do so can result in truancy penalties.

Excused Absences

Students will receive an excused absence for the following reasons:

1. Personal injury or illness
2. Illness of an immediate family member (parent, sibling, or grandparent)
3. Death of an immediate family member or other individual with principal's permission
4. Extreme weather conditions
5. Religious observances
6. College or postsecondary visits
7. Pregnancy
8. School-sponsored or endorsed activities
9. Parent/Guardian military deployment or return
10. Summons, subpoena, or court orders

Make-Up Work

Students will be given the opportunity to complete all assignments covered during their absences.

Unexcused Absences

If an absence is not listed under "Excused Absences," it's considered "Unexcused."

- Accumulating 5 or more unexcused absences within a school year requires reporting the student's name to the District's Attendance Supervisor. This refers to a total of 5 days, not necessarily 5 consecutive days.

- The Attendance Supervisor will then provide written notice to the parent stating that attendance is required.

Out of School Suspension or Expulsion

Out of School Suspension or expulsion is considered an unexcused absence but will not count against the total unexcused absences for purposes of establishing truancy.

Absences

When a student is unable to participate in daily instruction, **parent notes/physician notes must be submitted to the VLA attendance staff within 3 days of the absence**. All VLA students adhere to the same attendance policies/guidelines as students in traditional Wilson County Schools settings. Please review the Wilson County Schools Procedure regarding absence documentation.

You can contact **Ms. Dana Ables** via phone at 615-444-3282 ext. 7501 or email at ablesdan100@wcschools.com for all attendance notes and questions regarding Skyward.

Parents may utilize 5 parent excuse notes per semester.

Driver's License Revocation

Any student 15 years of age or older who becomes deficient in attendance will be reported to the Department of Safety for driver's license revocation. A student is considered deficient when they have more than 10 consecutive or 15 days total in unexcused absences during a semester. Suspensions are considered unexcused absences.

- Students with attendance deficiencies will have their driver's license revoked after 10 consecutive or 15 unexcused absences.
- To reclaim a driver's license at the end of the next semester, the student must have fewer than 10 consecutive unexcused absences or 15 total unexcused absences.
- Note: If the driver's license is revoked a second time, the student will not be able to get it reinstated until they turn 18 years of age.

Documentation for Excused Absences

Written documentation supporting reasons for absences must be submitted to the school principal or uploaded to Skyward within **3 school days**. Even if a parent verbally contacts the school, a written notice must also be sent (e-mailed to the attendance clerk or uploaded to Skyward). After 3 days, absences will become permanently unexcused.

Specific documentation is required for:

1. **Personal illness:** A written note from a parent is required upon the student's return. The school may accept a parent's note for up to five (5) accumulated days per semester (total of ten (10) days per school year). The principal, with proper documentation, may make exceptions for students with chronic health problems or special needs. A doctor's note should include the beginning and ending dates, as well as the time period. School administration may request additional medical information for excessive doctor notes.
2. **Death of a family member:** The principal may approve as an excused absence with appropriate documentation.
3. **Religious observances:** These are days set aside as sacred by a recognized religious denomination of which the student is a member. The principal may require a statement from the minister or other recognized religious leader.
4. **College visits:** The student must submit a signed letter from a campus official verifying the college or postsecondary visit.
5. **Summons, subpoena, or court orders:** Documented verification from the summons, subpoena, or court order is required to be submitted to school administration.

Progressive Truancy Intervention

Wilson County Schools follows a three-tiered plan to support students who struggle with attendance.

Tier 1	All Students	All students receive school-wide support and incentives published yearly in the WCS Parent & Student Handbook.
Tier 2	Students with **5 unexcused absences**	If a student reaches five unexcused absences (Tier 2), a conference will be held to sign an attendance contract and assess the underlying reasons for the absences.
Tier 3	Students with **7-9 unexcused absences**	Grades K-8: If a student reaches 7+ unexcused absences (Tier 3), a conference will be held in conjunction with the Truancy Board (at ATC) to review the attendance contract and offer supports as needed. Grades 9-12: If a student reaches 7+ unexcused absences (Tier 3), a conference will be held to review the attendance contract and adjust the plan as needed.

10 unexcused absences will result in a referral to the Wilson County Juvenile Court

For more information on the Progressive Truancy Interventions used by the District, please refer to **Board Policy 6.200**.

Driver's License Documents

Students planning to take their driver's permit assessment or driver's license course must request an **attendance verification form** from **Ms. Ables**. This document is required to obtain a permit or license.

- The form **must be requested in advance; Ms. Ables will not process same-day requests.**
- Forms are only valid for **30 days**. After 30 days, a new form must be requested.
- You may contact Ms. Ables via email at ablesdan100@wcschools.com or by phone at 615-444-3282 ext. 7501.

Curriculum

The VLA provides a **standards-based curriculum** aligned with Tennessee Board of Education standards. All instruction is provided by certified teachers in a digital learning environment developed by Wilson County Schools. Virtual classroom sizes will comply with applicable State Board rules and regulations.

All students will have weekly access to:

- **Synchronous and Asynchronous classes** in each subject and grade level.
- **Scheduled office hours** with their teacher for individual progress review and support, if needed.
- **Asynchronous activities** must be completed by the assigned due date and time.

6th - 8th Grade Curriculum

Teachers will assign daily assignments in each of the four core subjects: English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students will also be enrolled in two exploratory classes during the year. Additionally, middle school students will be assigned to a **Focus class** for activities including, but not limited to: intervention, enrichment, school-wide assessments, and social-emotional learning.

9th - 12th Grade Curriculum

Students will have **four blocks each semester** with teachers certified in their respective subject areas. Students will be assigned to a **Focus class** for activities including, but not limited to: intervention, enrichment, school-wide assessments, and social-emotional learning.

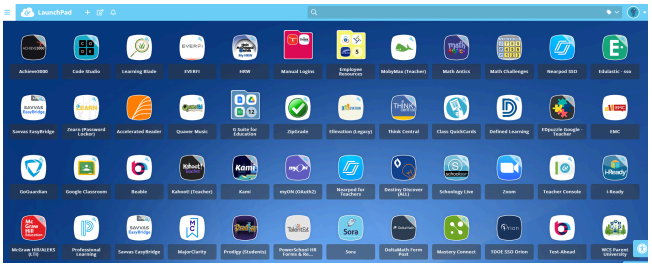
Syllabus

Students will receive a syllabus for each class. The syllabus will also be emailed to parents/guardians and posted in Schoology.

Instructional Technology Programs

ClassLink

ClassLink is the Learning Management System utilized in Wilson County Schools. After logging into a student-issued Chromebook, ClassLink will appear. Students must log in using their school username and password. **Do NOT use @wilsonk12tn.us at the end of the username when logging into ClassLink.**



Example of ClassLink Log-in:

- **Student:** John Collins
- **Username:** collijoh000 (first five letters of last name, first three letters of first name, followed by 000 or 001)
- **Password:** Col12345 (first three letters of last name, with the first letter capitalized, followed by the student's lunch code – listed as "Library Card" under the student's profile in Skyward).

Schoology

Schoology is the program utilized by all Virtual Learning Academy teachers to access course content and materials. You can log in to ClassLink, then select the Schoology app. All class Zoom links, course content, and additional information will be listed in each teacher's Schoology course.



Gmail

All Virtual Learning Academy students have a **wilsonk12tn.us Gmail account**. Their Gmail account is the same as their ClassLink username, but you add "@wilsonk12tn.us" at the end. Students can access their Gmail account by logging into Google.

After successfully locating the Google page, select the icon in the top right corner, then select the Gmail icon. This will lead to the student's email inbox. Virtual Learning Academy students are expected to **check their emails daily**. When administration or teachers email important information, this is the student email address where emails are sent.



Example of Gmail Log-in:

- **Student:** John Collins
- **Username:** collijoh000@wilsonk12tn.us
- **Password:** Col12345

Virtual Learning Suggested Supply Lists

- Chromebook compatible headphones with a microphone
- Calculator (8th Grade Algebra I, High School Algebra I and Algebra II: TI-NSpire CX II)
- Middle school students will need to purchase a stylus for their chromebook
- Students enrolled in Visual Art classes may need additional supplies, to be determined by the teacher.

Assessments

VLA teachers will provide a variety of assessments to determine student mastery of course content. Class assessments may include discussion-based assessments, essays, project-based assessments, and formative assessments.

Additionally, students will be required to complete **assessments required by the district or state**. These include, but are not limited to: iReady, TE21, TNReady, End of Course (EOC), ACT, SDC, LDC, and AP. These assessments are required for all students enrolled in those specific content areas and are not optional.

Please note: High school students **must take the ACT** in order to graduate. Failure to take the ACT will result in a student not being able to graduate. This is required by the State of Tennessee, and there are no exceptions. Students have the opportunity to take the ACT twice, free of charge: as a junior during the Spring semester and as a senior during their Fall semester.

In-Person Assessment Requirement

All assessments must be completed in-person at the Administrative and Training Complex, located at 415 Harding Drive in Lebanon. Virtual students are required to be present for their assessments. Parents/Guardians may not opt out of school, district or state assessments. Failure to attend required in-person assessment dates will result in the following:

- The student will be counted absent.
- The student will receive a zero for assessments such as TNReady and End of Course assessments.
- The zero will also be calculated and included as a percentage of their final grade: Middle school TNReady assessments count for 5% of the student's final grade, and high school End of Course assessments count for 5% of the student's final grade.

Wilson County Schools District Assessment Schedule

The Wilson County School District Assessment Schedule is available, but please note that this schedule does not include classroom assessments given by teachers or specific testing dates for Virtual Learning Academy Students.

VLA Testing Coordinator Contact Information

Mr. Freeland is the Virtual Learning Academy Testing Coordinator. He manages and oversees all VLA assessments throughout the school year and will communicate specific testing dates and information to all students and parents. If you have any questions regarding assessments, please contact Mr. Freeland.

Cory Freeland Assistant Principal 615-453-3400 ext. 2403 freelandc@wcschools.com

VLA Assessment Dates: District and State Testing Windows

A detailed testing schedule and additional information will be sent by Mr. Freeland as each testing window approaches.

Date	Test	Grades Applicable
8/17- 9/4	Universal Screener	K-8
9/21- 10/2	TE 21	6-8 and YL HS
10/14- 10/28	TE 21	2-5 and HS Semester
11/4/2026	ACT	12th grade
11/5/2026	ACT	AHS
11/30- 12/17	EOC	9- 12
11/30- 12/18	Universal Screener	K-8
12/7- 12/18	TE 21	6-8 and YL HS
1/6- 1/15	Universal Screener (Offline Tasks)	K-8
2/1- 3/29	ELPA21	ELL
2/17- 3/3	TE21	2-8
2/22- 3/3	TE21	HS (YR Long and Sem)
3/1	Senior Employability Skills- Must be completed	12th
4/5- 5/7	Universal Screener	K-8
4/7/2026	ACT	11
4/8/2026	ACT	AHS
4/7- 4/14	TCAP 2-8 Writing	2-8
4/19- 5/6	TCAP and EOC	All

* Indicates tests that students must be on campus to complete*

Student Grading System

Grading Procedure for Grades 1-12

This grading system is uniform throughout the school system for each grade. Grades at the end of each nine-week period are determined from daily work, homework, written assignments, and tests. In grades 9-12, weighting factors for Honors, Advanced Placement, Industry Certification, Dual Credit, and Dual Enrollment courses will be utilized according to Wilson County Schools Board Policy 4.600 and Tennessee Board of Education Policy 3.301.

Teachers will weigh the value of grades for various assignments and tests within the applicable period when computing the grade. This procedure allows for individual student differences in the grading process.

Subject-area grades shall be expressed by the following letters with their corresponding percentage range:

- **A:** 90-100
- **B:** 80-89
- **C:** 70-79
- **D:** 60-69
- **F:** Below 60

Grades 9-12 Grading Scale and Lottery Scholarships

Schools teaching grades 9-12 use the uniform grading system established by the State Board of Education. Student grades will be reported for applications for post-secondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation. Each school counselor will provide incoming freshmen with information on college core courses required for lottery scholarships, as well as necessary criteria (GPA, ACT, SAT score, etc.) that must be met to receive a scholarship.

Pass/Fail Grades

Pass/fail grades may be issued for certain non-credit bearing courses. However, these courses will not be included in the credit calculation for the HOPE Scholarship Eligibility GPA for students in grades 9-12.

Principal's List

To be eligible for the Principal's List, a student must have a grade of **'A' on all courses** for the grading period.

Honor Roll

To be eligible for the Honor Roll, a student must have **no grade below 'B' and at least one 'A'**.

Weighted Grades

Advanced coursework grades will be weighted with additional percentage points to calculate the semester average. Depending on the course taken, the following percentage points will be assigned:

- **Honors Courses:** +3 percentage points
- **Local and Statewide Dual Credit, Capstone Industry Certification Aligned:** +4 percentage points
- **Advanced Placement, College Level Exam Program (CLEP), and Dual Enrollment Courses:** +5 percentage points

Students enrolled in Local Dual Credit, Statewide Dual Credit, and Advanced Placement courses **must sit for the culminating exam** to receive the additional percentage points.

Weighted Grades (Continued)

For a Dual Enrollment Course taken by a student at an institution of higher education (IHE), if the IHE does not provide the district with numerical grades, the school district will convert the letter grade to a numeric grade based on the following conversion:

- **A:** 95
- **B:** 85
- **C:** 75
- **D:** 65
- **F:** 55

The IHE will add the additional five (5) percentage points before providing the letter grade to the district.

Quality Points

Final grades in **Honors classes** will be increased by **0.5 quality point**.

Final grades in any courses designated as an **early postsecondary (EPSO) course**, with the exception of local dual credit courses, will be increased by **1.0 quality point**. This includes Dual Enrollment Courses, State-Wide Dual Credit Courses, Tennessee Specific Industry Certification Courses, and National Industry Certification Courses.

Final grades in **Local Dual Credit courses** will be increased by **1.0 quality point**, if the student takes the corresponding Local Dual Credit exam. If a student elects not to take the Local Dual Credit exam, the student will receive an increase to his/her G.P.A. by 0.5 quality points.

Final grades in **Advanced Placement Courses** will be increased by **1.0 quality point** if the student takes the corresponding Advanced Placement Exam. If a student elects not to take the Advanced Placement Exam, the student will receive an increase to his/her G.P.A. by **0.5 quality points**.

Assigning quality points above a 4.0 for any course(s) is not allowed for the purpose of determining eligibility for the lottery scholarship.

Middle School Grades for High School-Level Courses

Middle school grades for high school-level courses, such as Algebra 1 in 8th grade, will count toward high school credit but will **not be included in the calculation of the student's GPA**.

Attendance & Grades

Attendance records will **not be used in determining the awarding of grades**. However, a student's attendance can be considered in the passing of a course or promotion or retention of a student pursuant to School Board Policy 6.200.

Make-Up Work & Late Assignments

The student shall be responsible for making up work missed during excused and unexcused absences. The work of a student whose grades are satisfactory but are withheld because of failure to complete the required work shall be reported as **incomplete (I)**. An incomplete grade shall be changed to a final grade within the designated time period.

In addition, the VLA has established a school-wide late assignment grading policy:

- Students who turn in late assignments will not be able to receive a grade higher than a **79 (C)**.

- For assignments in **weeks 1-4**, the student has until the **Wednesday before Progress Reports** to turn them in.
- For assignments in **weeks 5-9**, the student has until the **Wednesday before Report Cards** to complete them.
- All assignments that are not completed by the required due dates will result in a student receiving a **zero** for the assignment.

Student Services & Programs

Below, you will find information regarding student services offered by Wilson County Schools and Barry Tatum Virtual Learning Academy.

VLA Specific Contacts for Student Services

- **Exceptional Education Services:**
  - Contact: Mrs. Cynthia Dushek (VLA Exceptional Education Case Manager)
  - Email: dushekc@wcschools.com
  - Phone: 615-453-3400, then ask the administrative assistant for extension 7341.
- **504 Services:**
  - Contact: Robbie Goad (BTA School Counselor)
  - Email: goadrob100@wcschools.com
  - Phone: 615-453-3400 ext. 2437

Programs and Services for Students (Wilson County Schools)

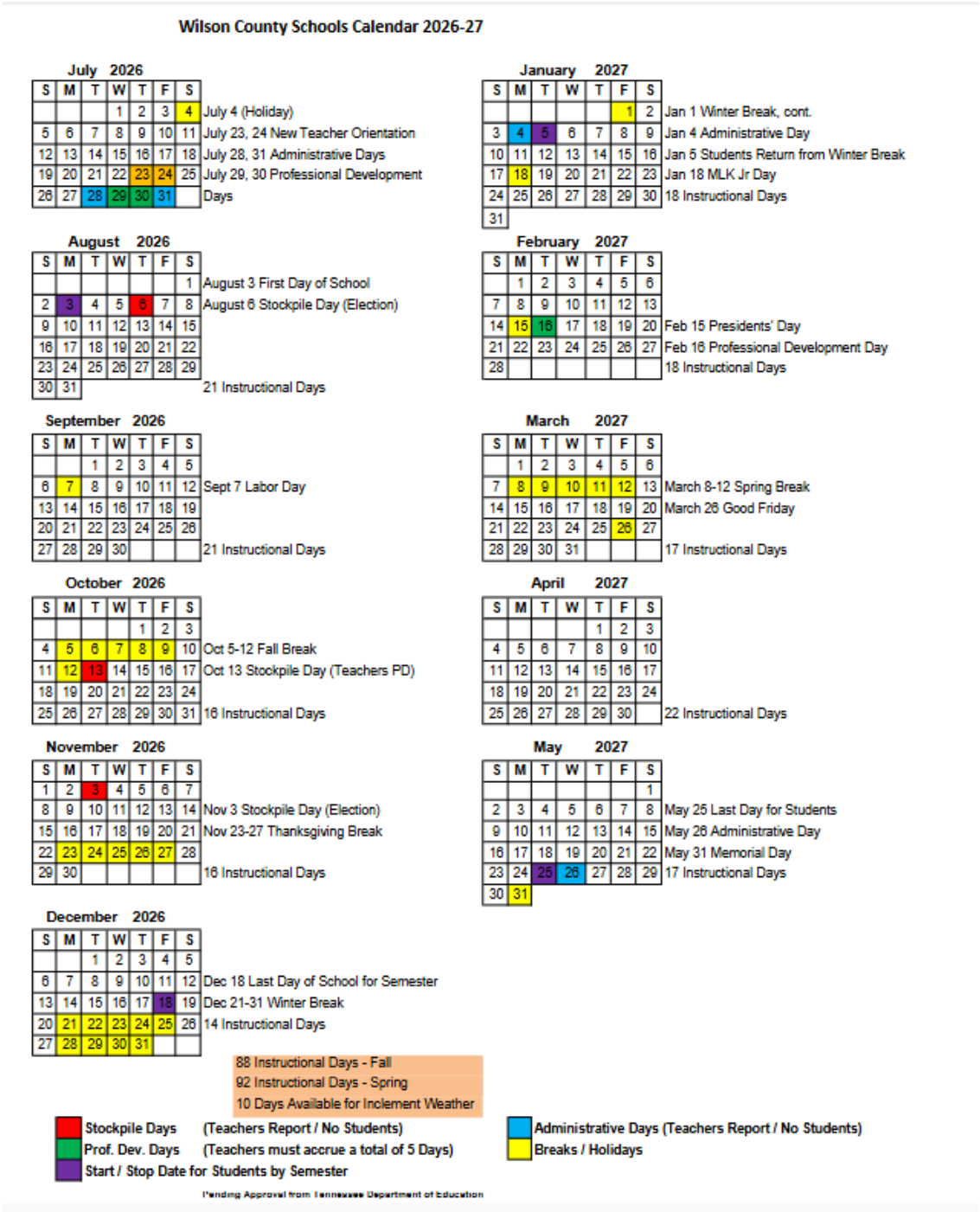
Wilson County Schools offers a variety of programs aimed at supporting students and ensuring a high level of academic attainment and growth.

- **Career & Technical Education (CTE)**
  - **Purpose:** Equips students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in a wide range of high-demand, skilled careers.
  - **Availability:** CTE courses are available at both middle and high school levels, offering hands-on learning opportunities and practical training in essential workplace competencies.
  - **Note:** The high school graduation rate for students with a CTE concentration is **99.4%.**
  - **For More Information:** Contact your student's guidance counselor.
- **English as a Second Language (ESL) Program**
  - **Purpose:** Federal funding ensures that students who are Limited English Proficient attain English language proficiency, develop high levels of academic attainment in English, and meet state academic standards.

    - **For More Information:** Contact the ESL Coordinator at 615-444-3282.
- **Special Education**
    - **Purpose:** Serves students who are eligible for an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The District provides a variety of services when deemed appropriate by an IEP Team.
    - **Suspecting a Disability:** Families who suspect their student has a disability may request in writing that their student's school start the support team process (S-Team process).
    - **For More Information:** Call the Special Education Department at 615-444-3282, ext. 7316.
- **Section 504**
    - **Overview:** Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance, including public schools. Its purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to education and the same opportunities to participate in school programs and activities as their non-disabled peers.
    - **Section 504 Plan:** This is a legally binding document developed by a school team for students with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (such as learning, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, performing manual tasks, caring for oneself, etc.). The plan outlines specific accommodations, related aids, and services the student needs to participate fully and equitably in their education.
    - **For More Information:** Contact your school counselor or the 504 Coordinator at 615-444-3282.
- **Gifted/Talented Student Enrichment Programs**
    - **Purpose:** Pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Wilson County Schools has developed a coordinated program to identify and meet the unique educational needs of gifted and talented students. This includes students who show exceptional capability in intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership, or specific academic areas and who require services and activities not ordinarily provided in a regular school program.
    - **For More Information:** A program FAQ and handbook can be found online at www.wcschools.com.
- **McKinney-Vento Program**
    - **Purpose:** Designed for students in transition who qualify for services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987.
    - **Student Rights (if qualified):**
        - Right to attend their school of zone, regardless of current living situation.
        - Right to continue in the school last attended before becoming homeless (if feasible and in the child's best interest).
        - Right to receive transportation to the school last attended if requested and necessary to prevent educational barriers.
    - **Qualifying Conditions:** Your student may qualify if they live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, campground, abandoned building or trailer, other inadequate

accommodations, or with friends or relatives due to inability to afford adequate housing.
    - **For More Information:** Contact the McKinney-Vento Liaison at 615-444-3282.
- **The Family Resource Center**
    - **Purpose:** Provides educational support and resources to all students and families in all schools in Wilson County.
    - **Services Provided:** Referrals for public services, referrals for eye exams and glasses, parenting information, Backpack or Kids Weekend food program, Group meetings through Wilson County Parents as Teachers, and aid with needs such as food, clothing, school supplies, etc.
    - **For More Information:** Please contact your student's school counselor.
- **Kids Club**
    - **Purpose:** The extended school program provides quality care in an enriching environment for each child.
    - **Availability:** Before and after school, during summer vacation, on snow days, and on school holidays for students.
    - **For More Information:** Including registration, can be found online.
- **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program**
    - **Purpose:** Targets at-risk four-year-olds, with first priority given to children whose families meet federal income poverty guidelines. The Pre-K Program helps prepare children for school by providing an opportunity for them to develop school readiness skills.
    - **For More Information:** Can be found online at www.wcschools.com in the "Students and Families" tab.
- **Programs for Adults**
    - **Barry Tatum Academy Adult High School**
        - **Purpose:** Offers an opportunity for adults striving to earn a high school diploma.
        - **Program Structure:** Self-paced, virtual curriculum with essential individual student instruction provided by certified teachers.
        - **For More Information:** Call 615-453-3400.
    - **The Adult Learning Center**
        - **Purpose:** Provides free academic instruction to adults preparing for the HiSET exam. Offers individualized basic literacy instruction in reading, writing, and math for adults seeking to improve those skills. Remediation in math and language arts is also available for students who need to refresh their skills prior to entering college or vocational training.
    - **For More Information or Assistance:** Call 615-443-8731.

Wilson County Schools Calendar



Additional Important Information

Athletics

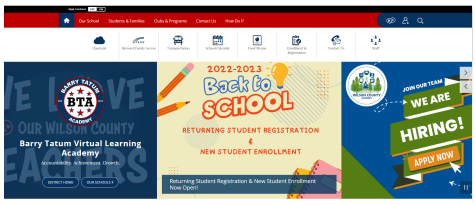
Virtual Learning Academy students are eligible to participate in TSSAA athletics at the student's school of zone. If your child will be participating in athletics at their school of zone, you need to:

- Notify and contact **Mrs. Kim Owen** via email at owenk@wcschools.com.
- Ensure you complete all required documents she provides you with.
- **Failure to complete the required documents may result in your child not being eligible to participate.**

Connect with the VLA

For important information, upcoming events, important dates, and more, you may view our Barry Tatum Virtual Learning Academy webpage.

- **VLA Website:** https://www.wcschools.com/btavla



- **Social Media:** Connect with us on Facebook by finding **Barry Tatum Academy of Wilson County**.

Skyward Information: Keeping Your Contact Details Current

Maintaining accurate contact information in Skyward is crucial for us to communicate effectively with you, especially during emergencies. Please take a moment to review and update your parent/guardian details, including:

- Parent/Guardian Names
- Current Phone Numbers
- Current Email Address
- Current Home Address
- Additional Emergency Contact Information

In addition, if you have a child custody agreement or documents from court, please provide the most current agreement or document to Ms. Ables as well.

Please Review and Confirm Your Information:

To help us ensure our records are accurate, kindly provide the following details:

- **Parent/Guardian Name: _____**
- **Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____**
- **Email Address: _____**
- **Home Address: _____**
  _____
- **Additional Emergency Contact:**
  - **Name: _____**
  - **Phone Number: _____**

Permission for Student Food & Beverage Distribution

Throughout the school year, Barry Tatum Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) partners with community organizations to provide students with complimentary food and beverages on special occasions. These items may include, but are not limited to, pizza, chips, cookies, sodas, and other snack items.

This form grants **permission for your child to receive these food and beverage items throughout their enrollment at VLA**. If you do not wish for your child to participate, please indicate your preference below.

Please Select One Option:

Please mark the appropriate box below:

- **[ ] My child, _____, HAS PERMISSION to receive food and beverage items while enrolled in the VLA.**

- **[ ] My child, _____, DOES NOT HAVE PERMISSION to receive food and beverage items while enrolled in the VLA.**

Student and Parent Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the Barry Tatum Virtual Learning Academy Student Handbook. I agree to adhere to all Virtual Learning Academy expectations, policies, procedures, and guidelines. I understand that failure to adhere to Barry Tatum Virtual Learning Academy policies may result in removal from the program.

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____