

## **Instruction - Knappa Virtual Academy**

**Updated September 10, 2020**

**How will classes be delivered?** Students will attend school fully online using a quality online curriculum called **Florida Virtual School**. This model is used in multiple districts in our region and the nation, and is taught by licensed Knappa teachers.

**Can you provide more detail on the program?** Yes, follow the link to more detailed information.

<https://www.flvs.net/>

**How is Knappa Virtual Academy different from online learning like we did last spring?** Last year, students and teachers were transitioned to online learning suddenly. The district used Google Classroom as a portal for online delivery. Teachers had to invent curriculum materials and learn to do online delivery while teaching at the same time...a daunting task. This transition was hard for students while teachers worked hard to figure things out. The 2020-21 Knappa Virtual Academy uses an established and high quality program called Florida Virtual. Students and parents can view grades in this system without having to log into individual classes. The Florida Virtual content is a fully online curriculum aligned with the Oregon Standards. It includes pre-prepared modules for each subject area and grade level. Students will be granted grades quarterly and these will be posted to their transcript (for high school) at the end of each term, allowing for easy transition back to the hybrid model, if so chosen. The teachers will participate in summer professional development provided by the Northwest Regional Educational Service District (our local educational support agency) This program will have a viable curriculum, teachers don't have to "self invent" as much, although they have the ability supplement as they professionally wish, and they will have quality training.

**What will be done for students who have home internet connectivity issues?** This program is not really viable for those who have connectivity issues.

**What hours will school run?** 24/7, but some instruction will be synchronous, meaning a student must attend at a time designated by the teacher or take assessments at particular times.

**What if a student or the teacher gets ill?** The teacher would have a substitute if needing to be out for more than a day. The teacher would likely be working from home so illness is less likely. Students, if they become ill, need to have their parents inform the teacher and it will be treated just like an excused absence in “regular” school.

**Who should consider Knappa Virtual Academy?** This program is good for those who...

- learn independently
- prefer working individually
- are curious to explore on their own
- may not prefer the social scene in school
- who have parents available to consult (especially at younger ages and less necessary as students get into high school)
- medically vulnerable

**Who should NOT consider Knappa Virtual Academy?**

- students who struggle to get their work done
- students who are currently experiencing a lack of academic success
- students who need a connection with the teacher beyond what can occur online
- situations where parents cannot monitor progress

- young students where parents cannot be with students to help them navigate
- students who struggled with online learning during spring of 2020

**If I don't like this model, can I change?** Yes, changes will be allowed at the nine week periods (at the end of each quarter) throughout the year.

**How often will this program be reviewed?** The district will formally review the plan for educational effectiveness and safety every four weeks, and adjustments will be made as needed. The program may also be adjusted “along the way” if unexpected needs arise.

**What role will parents play?** As always, parents should help students when they can, and should communicate with the teacher as needs arise. Also, parents must monitor progress using the parent portal to ensure that the student is keeping up with their work.

**What if my student has special needs?** Special needs can be accommodated in this program and specialized instruction can be provided for students with an IEP as organized by the student's special education case manager. As needed, a student in KVA may be eligible for limited in person instruction on the school site. Of course, this is a decision made in cooperation with the IEP team.

**Is Knappa Virtual Academy the same as home school?** NO. When a parent declares intent to home school, they are “on their own” for designing curriculum and teaching and they cease to be enrolled in the Knappa School District. Knappa Virtual Academy is a school district program with Knappa School District teachers and students are enrolled in the district. Families may be very involved in helping the student but they have the full support and curriculum provided free of charge by Knappa School District including teaching provided by an Oregon licensed teacher.

**How is attendance monitored in online learning?** Attendance is monitored by the teacher and based on actual weekly participation in academic content and meaningful reciprocal interaction with the teacher. Students who are not completing work and/or not communicating with their teacher are considered absent.

**What about students whose first language is not English?** The program does have translation availability but is not a substitute for the benefits provided by ELL services at school or experience reading, writing, speaking, and listening to English in the context of a classroom.

**Who else is using this model?** Many school districts in Oregon and around the nation are using this model. Students throughout northwest Oregon, in particular use this program because it is sponsored by the NWRESA, even though the teachers are from Knappa.

**Will things change?** Yes. We are constantly updating our plan. We know we have work to do to better accommodate those who receive special education services or are English language learners. We also know we need to continue to find solutions for those who have internet connectivity issues at home. We are also continuing dialogue with the community and are making adjustments based on feedback. The Department of Education and Health Department will update their requirements and our program will also change. Please return regularly to this website to see what has changed. In times of a virus, we do not have control over the whole situation, and adjustments will be needed.