

Straughn High School Virtual Instruction Program

Orientation

Grades 9-12

Covington County School District

Introduction

Understanding that a challenging school year lies ahead, our school system is dedicated to the students of Covington County. Our schools provide more than just academics to children and adolescents. In addition to reading, writing, and math, children learn social and emotional skills, get exercise and build lasting friendships. Therefore, we have created this plan to aid in navigating the reestablishment of our school where employees, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to school.

We understand that your decision to choose virtual school was made based on what you know to be the safest and best option for your family. We will work together to provide a learning experience for your student to ensure their academic success.

For students enrolled in virtual programs, the basic support they need from parents is much the same as any traditional student—positivity, accountability, and the knowledge that family members are aware of and care about what they're working on. But, virtual learning does come with some additional challenges that parents can help their children manage.

Stay Connected with the SHS Virtual Instruction Program

1. Go to <https://shs.cov.k12.al.us>
2. Go to Virtual Instruction-Announcements and Dates will be posted.
3. Access the Straughn High School Virtual Instruction Student Handbook-

This is the best source of information related to Virtual Instruction.

Tip One: Help Your Child Build a Schedule

One of the biggest draws of virtual learning is the flexibility it offers. That flexibility, though, comes at the price of the structure that the traditional classroom provides. Students in virtual courses need to build their own routines and effectively manage their time in order to stay on track.

Before your child's virtual course(s) begins, sit down together and think through what he or she is responsible for accomplishing in his or her virtual courses on a daily or weekly basis, how much time those tasks will realistically take, and what other commitments (sports, arts, work, family engagements, etc.) he or she needs to consider.

Write out a weekly schedule with designated work time for online courses. Be sure to hang up the schedule in a noticeable place, like on the refrigerator or next to any other family master calendars, to help keep your child accountable and establish an effective routine.

Tip Two: Model Hard Work and Persistence

Success in virtual courses takes a high level of motivation and self-directed effort. For some virtual students, this motivation comes naturally. For others, getting accustomed to self-pacing and working through the normal, productive struggles of learning more independently can be challenging. Parents can make a big difference simply by demonstrating these skills in their day-to-day interactions and conversations. Talk about your own work and goals, about times you have had to put in extra time to prepare to accomplish important tasks, and times you've had to work through frustration and failure. When a parent demonstrates hard work and a motivated attitude it encourages the student to do the same.

Tip Three: Set Up a Designated Workspace

For everyone, surroundings make a huge difference in one's mindset and ability to focus. Students taking virtual courses have the option to complete their work where they want. It is important to put thought into what kind of environment is truly most effective for them and make sure that they have a designated space at home for school work.

Tip Four: Familiarize Yourself with the Virtual Learning Platform

Students taking virtual courses spend their school days immersed in an online program. For parents, taking the time to get familiar with what that platform looks like, how your child is using it, and what resources are available are some of the best ways you can offer support.

CCS is using Edmentum's Plato Courseware. You will find a link later on in this presentation to a video with an overview and a demonstration on how to use Plato Courseware.

Tip Five: Build a Relationship with Your Teen's Teacher

Virtual teachers are teachers like any others! They're qualified, dedicated professionals who want to build strong relationships with their students—and part of that is getting to know students' families.

Your child's virtual teachers are your primary teammates in supporting your child through his or her online schoolwork. Nearly all virtual courses require a certain amount of communication back and forth between students and teachers.

If you have questions about the course or concerns about your child's progress, reach out and discuss them with his or her teacher.

Virtual Instruction Platform

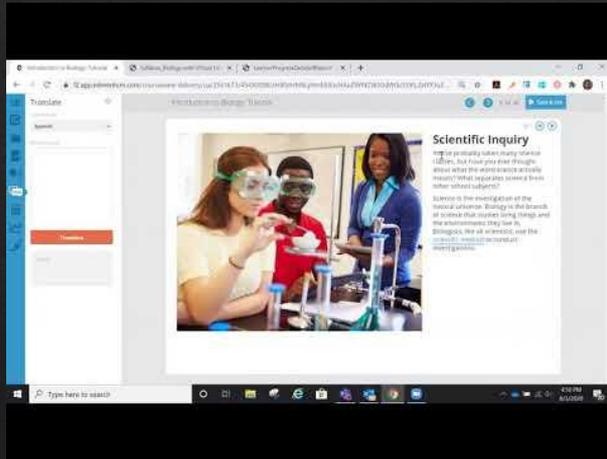
Edmentum Courseware



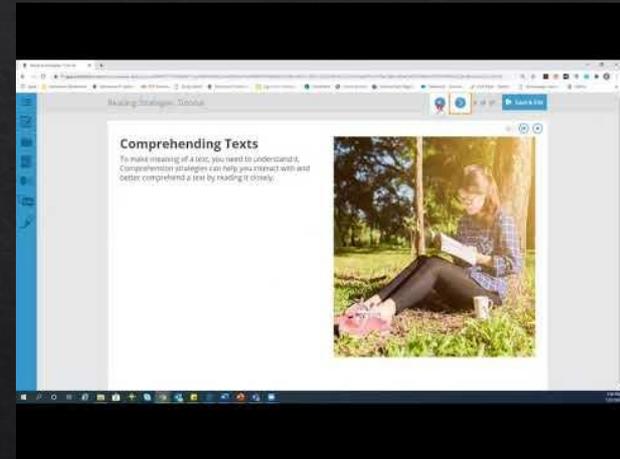
Plato Courseware

Click the image below

For Parents



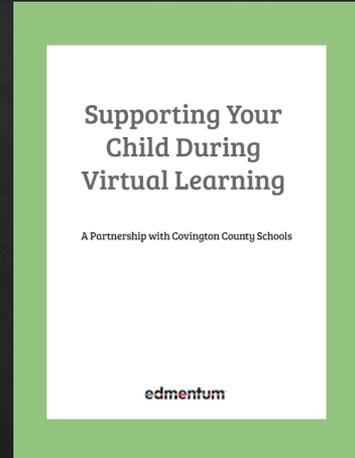
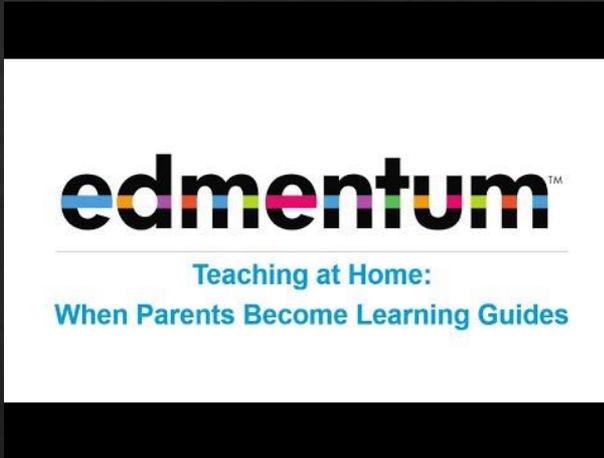
For Students



How to Sign Into Courseware

1. Go to <https://shs.cov.k12.al.us/>
2. Go to Virtual Instruction
3. Click on Plato Courseware
4. Log in using student information provided by Mrs. Bryan

Click the images below for
additional materials



Remember To:



Reach out to clarify expectations for your child's at-home learning.

Your child's virtual teacher is a local school teacher. You will receive contact information the week prior to virtual classes beginning.



Ask for support if you are struggling with the programs and technology your child is expected to use.

Your school offers daily tutoring with a certified teacher. Call the school to schedule time as needed.



Clarify any limitations your household has with access to the Internet and devices during appropriate learning times.

We are working to provide solutions to help provide internet service for remote areas. However, across the nation, equipment is on backorder. As soon as we have the assets to provide assistance, we will. Until then, the parent must make provisions to provide access.



Work with teachers to understand schedules and communication preferences so that you know the best ways to connect with each other.

Communicate quickly with your child's teacher if there is a disruption in the established schedule for completing daily lessons.