



# Alternate Online Learning Fall 2021

## Disclaimers

**For the Fall 2021 semester, an alternate online learning option will be offered to medically fragile students with a doctor's recommendation. In addition, students can be considered for the alternate online learning option with a medical doctor's recommendation if there is an extreme medical condition in the student's documented residence and available vaccinations do not provide efficient support.**

**Students will be required to complete school work during normal school hours. If work is not completed during this time, students will be counted absent. DCS recommends an adult be home during the school day to monitor the student while completing coursework.**

**District officials will work closely with Mississippi Department of Education truancy officers to monitor attendance.**

**Students MUST stay in the program for the entire semester. (August-December 2021)**

**Extra-curricular activities such as athletics and fine arts will not be available for students who choose to participate in the alternate online learning option.**

**There will be a limited course selection for secondary students.**

**Due to enrollment numbers, some students may be placed with a teacher in their home school, while other students could be placed with a teacher from another school or zone. When a student returns to in-person instruction he/she will likely be placed in a different teacher's class, and/or their schedule will change.**

## Enrollment:

For the Fall 2021 semester, the alternate online learning option will be available for medically fragile students or students with an extreme medical situation in their documented residence. A doctor's recommendation is required for a student to be considered for alternate online learning. For K-12 students to be eligible for acceptance into the program, the following must be completed:

- Registration **completed** via PowerSchool Registration- Required documents must be uploaded (proof of residency, immunization compliance, birth certificate, etc.) **Registration in PowerSchool opens June 14<sup>th</sup>.**
- Alternate Online Learning Application Completed- [Link to Form](#)
- Completed DCS medical recommendation form (p.12), physician's letter and signed alternate online learning handbook consent form (p.13) will need to be scanned and sent in **one** e-mail to [aol@dcsms.org](mailto:aol@dcsms.org) The subject line of the e-mail should include the student's name and school. *Example: Susan Smith- Walls Elementary*

**See page 11 in the handbook for more information on medical documents.**

## Attendance

Attendance will be taken daily in accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education's attendance guidelines.

## Elementary

### *Kindergarten-Fifth Grades*

Teachers will assist students in working through weekly assignments with a mix of interactive activities. The content and the pace will match curriculum expectations. Daily instruction could include recorded or live teaching from the classroom teacher, instructional videos, tasks, assignments, and/or activities. The mode of instruction will vary by school, grade level and/or course. **A synchronous (live) session will be required daily during school hours.**

### Schoology

DeSoto County Schools utilizes Schoology as our learning management system. Each day lessons, assignments, assessments or activities will be uploaded for K-5 students to complete. Students must submit assignments using this platform.

Log in information will be distributed to students at the school level.

### Typical Day for an Elementary Student

**Time** – The Mississippi Department of Education requires 330 minutes of daily instruction for all students, including those participating in the alternate online learning option. This is an increase of 90 minutes per day compared to last year.

**A synchronous (live) session will be required daily during school hours.**

- A. **Procedures and learning expectations** – Academic procedures and expectations will mirror the traditional classroom as much as possible.
  
- B. **English/Language Arts** – The Schoology platform will house lessons including new instruction and review of standards and learning targets, independent practice (offline), and some virtual small group and/or one on one instruction to meet the needs of students.
  
- C. **Math** - The Schoology platform will house lessons including new instruction and review of standards and learning targets, independent practice (offline), and some virtual small group and/or one on one instruction to meet the needs of students.
  
- D. **Science and Social Studies** – The Schoology platform will house lessons linked through various sites and/or online texts. Science and social studies topics will be incorporated in English/language arts as much as possible.
  
- E. **Assessment** – Formative checks and summative assessments used in the traditional school model will be adapted to allow for online access. Students may also be required to take district and state assessments periodically throughout the year.
  
- F. **Teacher Check-ins** – All students will be provided feedback and guidance through Schoology. Parents and/or students may reach out to teachers with questions and requests for help at anytime. Teachers will respond to requests by the end of the next school day.

## Secondary

### *Sixth- Twelfth Grades*

Secondary virtual courses will be taught through Edgenuity Courseware, a heavily video-based course curriculum. Pre-recorded video instruction is provided by Edgenuity, not Desoto County School teachers. Courses include assignments and assessments aligned to the state standards.

Secondary students will have a limited course selection. See course selection beginning on p.8.

### *Secondary Attendance Policy*

**Grades 6-8:** To be counted present, students must work within a course for 48 minutes per class period. For classes that are 2 periods in length, students must work 96 minutes within the course to be counted present. **Students must follow the school bell schedule and attendance will be taken after each period. Courses should be completed in the order in which they are assigned in PowerSchool.**

**Grades 9-12:** To be counted present, students must work within a course 94 minutes per block. **Students must follow the school bell schedule. Courses should be completed in the order in which they are assigned in PowerSchool and attendance will be taken after each block.**

## Expectations

- The student understands that it is the enrolled student who must complete his/her assigned work.
- Students are not allowed to record, publish, photograph, stream, post to a third- party site, sell, duplicate or share anything posted on or within the Schoology/Edgenuity platforms, either by Schoology/Edgenuity or DeSoto County Schools. Violations could result in removal from the program and possible prosecution in accordance with the law.

## Internet & Devices

The student's home school will initiate contact concerning student device deployment and distribution for upcoming the school year.

## Technology Support

Students and families in need of technology support can put in a help ticket using the student's school e-mail address. <http://www.dcsdms.org/tickets/>

Or you may call our district support help desk- 662-449-7121

## **Grading**

Students will follow the DCS board approved grading policy.

## **State Assessments**

Students enrolled in the alternate online learning option will be required to participate in state assessments. Some of the state assessments could be required for promotion and/or graduation by state law/policy, such as is the case for all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and high school students enrolled in Algebra I, English II, Biology I or U.S. History. In addition, all students in kindergarten and grades 4-8 are required to take a state assessment by federal and/or state law, along with all English Learner students in all grades. These state assessments will require the student to take the assessment in the school building. The school will work with the guardian to complete this at the appropriate time.

## **Food & Nutrition**

Meals are available to students who participate in the alternate online learning option. Please contact the Director of Child Nutrition, Alex Hallmark, for more information at [alex.hallmark@dcsms.org](mailto:alex.hallmark@dcsms.org)

## **Special Education**

A student's IEP was written to provide personalized instructional support services in a traditional school setting. Some special education services and related services along with supplementary aids and services may not be appropriate or feasible in an online option. An IEP meeting will be held at the beginning of the school year to determine the services that can be provided while the student is learning online.

## **504**

A student's 504 plan was written to provide accommodations in a traditional school setting to provide equity due to that student's disability. Some accommodations may not be appropriate or feasible in an online option. A 504 meeting will be held at the beginning of the school year to determine the accommodations that can be provided while the student is learning online.

## **English Learner**

English Learner students will receive services as outlined in their language service plan. The student's English Learner teacher will be in contact after school begins.

### Gifted/Spotlight Education

Gifted/Spotlight students will receive services/assignments through Schoology similar to other classes. The student's Gifted/Spotlight teacher will be in contact after school begins.

### Career Tech

For our Career Tech programs, much of our curriculum requires hands-on learning and use of tools, equipment, and lab space that is provided to our students on campus. Because Career Tech uses a hands-on learning model, students can only be served in a face-to-face environment. Therefore, if students choose to apply for the online option, **they will not be able to participate in their Career Tech program.**

### Additional Information

The parent further understands that at any point the school or district feels that this learning approach is not the most effective for a student due to lack of attendance, participation, or academic growth, a conference will be held with the parent to decide if participation in the online learning option will continue.

As educators, we feel it is important to share that we strongly believe that students learn best in the traditional classroom setting. We feel it is the most beneficial and effective academic and social-emotional instructional mode of delivery. Careful consideration should be taken when requesting your child participate in the alternate online learning option.

**Alternate Online Learning- Course List**  
**Middle School**

	<b>6th</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>8th</b>
<b>English</b>	<b>English (Grade 6)</b>	<b>English (Grade 7)</b>	<b>English (Grade 8)</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>Math (Grade 6)</b>	<b>Math (Grade 7)</b>	<b>Math (Grade 8)</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>Science (Grade 6)</b>	<b>Science (Grade 7)</b>	<b>Science (Grade 8)</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Social Studies (Grade 6)</b>	<b>Social Studies (Grade 7)</b>	<b>MS Studies/World Geography</b>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>Health</b> <b>Art</b> <b>P.E.</b>	<b>Health</b> <b>Art</b> <b>P.E.</b>	<b>Health</b> <b>Art</b> <b>P.E.</b>
<b>Technology</b>			<b>Cyber Foundations</b>

## Alternate Online Learning- Course List High School

### Department of English (4)

- CC English I\*
- CC English II\*
- CC English III
- CC English IV
- DC Comp I
- DC Comp II
- AP English Language
- AP English Literature

### Department of Mathematics (4)

- HS Ready Math
- Foundations of Algebra
- CC Algebra I\*
- CC Geometry
- SREB Math/Essentials
- CC Algebra II
- Algebra III
- AP Calculus
- DC College Algebra

### Department of Science (3)

- Foundations of Biology
- Biology I\*
- Physical Science
- Environmental Science (.5)
- Earth & Space Science
- Chemistry I
- Physics
- DC Principles of Biology I
- AP Biology

### Department of Social Studies (3.5)

- MS Studies\* (.5)
- Economics\* (.5)
- World History
- US History
- US Government (.5)
- World Geography
- DC US History II
- AP World History
- AP Government

### Required Electives (4)

- College & Career Readiness
- Health (.5)
- Fine Art- Art History
- Cyber Foundations or Exploring Computer Science
- P.E. (.5)

### Additional

#### Elective Courses (5.5)

- ACT Prep I /ACT Prep II
- Oral Communication
- Personal Finance
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish I
- Spanish II
- Strategies for Success (.5)
- AP Psychology

Required Courses \*

## Alternate Online Learning High School Course Selection by Grade

	9th	10th	11th	12th
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compensatory Reading/English I (Yearlong English I)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compensatory Writing /English II (Yearlong English II)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English III</li> <li>DC English Comp I**</li> <li>AP English Language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English IV</li> <li>DC English Comp I**</li> <li>DC English Comp II**</li> <li>AP English Literature</li> </ul>
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HS Ready Math/ Foundations</li> <li>Foundations to Algebra/Algebra I (Yearlong Algebra)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Algebra II</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra II</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Algebra III</li> <li>DC College Algebra**</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra II</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Algebra III</li> <li>Essentials for College Math/SREB</li> <li>DC College Algebra**</li> <li>AP Calculus</li> </ul>
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundations to Biology</li> <li>Biology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Science</li> <li>Earth &amp; Space</li> <li>Environmental Science</li> <li>Chemistry*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Science</li> <li>Earth &amp; Space</li> <li>Environmental Science</li> <li>Chemistry*</li> <li>DC Principles of Biology I**</li> <li>AP Biology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Science</li> <li>Earth &amp; Space</li> <li>Environmental Science</li> <li>Chemistry*</li> <li>DC Principles of Biology I**</li> <li>AP Biology</li> </ul>
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government</li> <li>Economics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World History</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US History</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government</li> <li>Economics</li> </ul>
Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies for Success</li> <li>Personal Finance</li> <li>Psychology</li> <li>Oral Communications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Finance</li> <li>Strategies for Success</li> <li>ACT Prep I/ACT Prep</li> <li>Oral Communications</li> <li>AP Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Finance</li> <li>Strategies for Success</li> <li>ACT Prep I/ACT Prep</li> <li>Oral Communications</li> <li>Sociology</li> <li>Spanish I</li> <li>Spanish II</li> <li>AP Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Finance</li> <li>Strategies for Success</li> <li>ACT Prep I/ACT Prep</li> <li>Oral Communications</li> <li>Sociology</li> <li>Spanish I</li> <li>Spanish II</li> <li>AP Psychology</li> </ul>
Tech	Exploring Computer Science	Exploring Computer Science	Exploring Computer Science	Exploring Computer Science
Fine Art	Art History	Art History	Art History	Art History
Health	Health	Health	Health	Health
Physical Ed.	P.E.	P.E.	P.E.	P.E.

\*Co-requisite: Algebra II

\*\* ACT Score, 3.0 GPA and Cost Associated

## DeSoto County Schools Alternate Online Learning- Fall 2021

For the Fall 2021 semester, the alternate online learning option will be available for medically fragile students or students with an extreme medical situation in their documented residence. A doctor's recommendation is required for a student to be considered for alternate online learning.

Please see the alternate online learning handbook for more information about the program and course selections. **Submitting an application indicates a commitment for at least one semester.**

For students to be eligible for acceptance, the following must be completed:

- Registration completed via PowerSchool Registration- Required documents must be uploaded (proof of residency, immunization compliance, birth certificate, etc.) Registration opens June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Alternate Online Learning Application completed- [Link to Form](#)
- Completed DCS medical recommendation form, physician's letter and signed alternate online learning handbook consent form will need to be scanned and sent in **one** e-mail to [aol@dcsms.org](mailto:aol@dcsms.org). The subject line of the e-mail should include the student's name and school.  
*Example: Susan Smith- Walls Elementary*

Only completed applications with all documents will be reviewed for approval. All applications and documents must be submitted by **Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm**. Parents will be notified beginning July 12<sup>th</sup> if their student was approved or denied for the online option.

**In order to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, school officials will not accept late or incomplete applications.**

You may e-mail [aol@dcsms.org](mailto:aol@dcsms.org) for questions or concerns.

DeSoto County Schools- Alternate Online Learning  
**Medical Recommendation Form- Fall 2021**

Name of Medical Office	Student's Name
Date of Recommendation	Physician's Name Completing Recommendation Letter
<p>Check here if the medical recommendation is in reference to the student listed above.</p> <p>Check here if the medical recommendation is in reference to a family member residing within the student's household.</p>	
<p>Please sign below acknowledging that you recommend the student listed above be removed from the traditional classroom setting and placed in the online setting provided by DeSoto County Schools for the 2021 fall semester due to a medical reason.</p> <p>Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>	

Please submit a letter from the physician including the following:

- Student's Name
- Reason for requesting enrollment into the alternate online learning option for the 2021 fall semester
- Physician's signature
- Physician's Phone Number

**\*\*\*The physician will need to state in the letter that he/she recommends the student to be removed from the traditional classroom setting and placed in the online setting due to the student's medical condition or the medical condition of a family member in the same household.**

**DeSoto County Schools officials may need to contact the physician in order to verify information in the medical form or in the physician's recommendation letter.**

**Submit this form, physician's letter, and signed alternate online learning handbook consent form in one e-mail to [aol@dcsms.org](mailto:aol@dcsms.org). The subject line of the e-mail should include the student's name and school. Example: Susan Smith- Walls Elementary**

**DeSoto County Schools  
Alternate Online Learning Handbook Consent Form**

**By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, agree to and understand the terms of all items concerning the alternate online learning handbook for the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_