

Grainger County Schools

Virtual Option 20.21

Frequently Asked Questions

How much time do students need to spend doing virtual learning?

The Tennessee State Board of Education guidelines state that students learning virtually in grades 1-12 should have access to 7 hours a day of instructional time (same as in-school students). Kindergarten students must have access to 4 hours of instructional time each day. The teacher(s) assigned to virtual students may provide further guidance based on how long they expect a task, assignment or project to take.

How will my child access content?

Virtual lessons and academic content will be posted in the student's Google Classroom(s), which students can access through their assigned Grainger County Schools email and password. Parents can also access their student's Google Classroom page and will be given a code by their online educator.

What if I don't have a laptop or electronic device?

The school system will be distributing devices to virtual students who do not currently have them. We will do a school messenger call or text to let parents/students know when to pick up devices at their school.

What if I don't have WIFI?

We will be utilizing jump drives and /or downloading process for families and students that do not have access to reliable internet. We have also installed hotspots at all of our school buildings so that families and students can access WIFI in school parking lots to download assignments and instructional content.

Will attendance be kept and monitored for virtual students?

YES. Because students and schools are still being held accountable for 180 instructional school days, attendance will be taken in accordance to the virtual meet check-ins, participation in group discussions, and/or work completed for each student.

Is student work graded?

YES. Students will be given feedback and will be graded on their assignments. Feedback on assignments and lessons will be given directly through students' Google Classrooms. Students may also be asked to share work via an agreed upon method with their online teacher (email, phone call, etc.).

Will my child be asked to take a test?

YES. Just like they do during the traditional school year, online teachers will routinely check for evidence of student's learning and may quiz them on their understanding. TNReady exams will still be required at the end of the school year or semester courses (9-12) for all students enrolled in a TNReady course. If you are unsure whether or not your child's course is a state tested course, please speak with your child's online teacher or school counselor.

How do I get in touch with my child's online educator(s)?

You will be contacted by your child's online educator(s) via email prior to the first day of school. Email is the suggested form of virtual communication, however, parents and online teachers may call or text if needed. Please email your child's online teacher if you have concerns throughout the virtual learning process. Student will have regularly scheduled mandatory check-in with teacher(s). Check-ins may be daily or weekly and will be determined by the teacher(s) based on individual student need including but not limited to academics progress, attendance, and compliance. Some high school courses may require students to login to a virtual meeting in real time (when class is being conducted live) to participate and earn credit in course or courses.

What about virtual schedule?

Students may not be required to complete all assignments on regular school schedule on a daily basis and may have some flexibility with daily schedule to complete all of their assigned work; however, there may be some mandatory course attendance, class meetings, participation and/or check-ins required during the regular school day depending on school and grade level. Each **school** will provide expectations; determine schedules and information for virtual students.

My child has unique needs. How will they be supported?

Online educators will consider every child's needs in designing instruction and targeted support. Online teachers can also leverage accessibility tools through Google Classroom to differentiate learning to meet the needs of our students. If your child has an IEP, 504 Plan, IHP or ILP, please contact your case manager and let them know that you will be seeking virtual learning services. OR your case manager will contact you....

How will you address students' social and emotional needs?

Online teachers are asked to consider students' social and emotional needs as part of their daily lesson planning, and their primary focus will be on connecting with students and ensuring their wellbeing. In addition, counselors and other school personnel are reaching out to some students on an individual basis about their social and emotional needs.

Other questions?

If you have any other questions, please reach out to your child's online teacher(s), principal or school counselor.

August 5, 2020

August 5, 2020