



**TEACHING &
LEARNING
CONTINUES**

**YORK SCHOOL
DISTRICT ONE**

York School District One Virtual Academy Overview

Introduction

York School District One will be offering a new Virtual Academy for the 2020-2021 school year in an effort to accommodate families that would prefer their student(s) to have a full-time virtual option. Students in grades PK – 12 will have the opportunity to experience quality instruction led by York School District One teachers in a virtual classroom environment.

Teachers in the Virtual Academy will provide face-to-face instruction, flexible support with individuals or small groups, and teacher-developed lessons for core and elective classes via live-streaming and digital coursework through a computer-based platform. Unlike a remote learning environment, students enrolled in the Virtual Academy will follow a schedule just as they would in a traditional brick and mortar school. Students will have the opportunity to receive standards-based content, ask questions, participate in classroom discussions and independent work, submit assignments, and demonstrate mastery of learning from the safety and comfort of their homes.



YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE VIRTUAL ACADEMY

YSD1 Virtual Academy Overview

Virtual Academy Faculty: Academy teachers are current York School District One teachers that have been selected to teach in the Virtual Academy. All faculty are SC certified. Grade-levels, content areas, and electives will be staffed based upon student enrollment and declaration of intent. Dr. Torri Barber will serve as the administrator of the YSD1 Virtual Academy.

Learning Platform: An accredited, online learning platform based on South Carolina curriculum standards will be delivered through Canvas, our current learning management tool. Courses will be designed using the curriculum platforms such as Edgenuity (7 – 12) and supported with teacher-designed lessons, direct instruction, and relevant activities.

Courses offered: The Virtual Academy will offer K-8 content area courses in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Special and exploratory courses such as PE, Health, World Language, Technology and Art may also be included in the curriculum. A full array of 9- 12 academic courses including Honors and AP levels will be provided. High School courses are NCAA approved. Various electives including Fine Arts and Career and Technical Education (CATE) may also be provided.

Learning Opportunities: The Virtual Academy will primarily utilize a synchronous class model. Courses will be offered as full virtual courses with opportunities for online face to face instruction, tutoring, small group instruction, and independent learning.

Schedule: Students will follow a schedule of virtual class sessions and have the opportunity to schedule additional time for independent assistance and small group instruction. The YSD1 school calendar start and end dates, including all grading period dates, will apply to the Virtual Academy. There will be flexibility for the actual start date of the Virtual Academy to allow for onboarding of students in the virtual setting.

Student-Centered: Virtual Academy teachers will develop and maintain meaningful relationships with students. Various activities and interest or progress surveys will be administered to determine learning styles, strengths, and mastery of learning targets to assist teachers with assessing and meeting students' needs. Activities will be conducted throughout the delivery of the course to build community and relationships with the teacher and class.

Student Activities: The Virtual Academy will provide student and family engagement opportunities on its campus. In addition, students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities, including sports and Fine Arts programs at their home school while enrolled in the Virtual Academy. These activities typically are offered at the home school before or after the school day.

Student Expectations: Students are expected to attend online class sessions, complete class activities, submit class assignments, take all assessments, and remain on the defined schedule directed by the teacher. Participating in online small group instruction or individual sessions may be optional unless otherwise assigned by the teacher. Teachers will post a syllabus for each course. A schedule detailing expectations, class schedule, and due dates will be posted each week. Canvas and the online learning

platform will provide instant course participation data such as time on task, assignment completion progress, assessment scores, and overall course average.

Special Services: Students who qualify for special education services will receive accommodations and modifications according to the established individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan. Any required face to face accommodations will be provided accordingly and in a means that ensures the safety and health of the students and teachers.

Technology: It is the expectation that students have strong, reliable internet access and a personal device with keyboard.

Declaration of Intent: Students should first complete the annual primary registration process and provide proof of residency at their home school. Once completed, students/families must complete a **Declaration of Intent** form indicating their request to be enrolled in the Virtual Academy, confirming their ability to provide reliable internet access and a personal device with a keyboard, and noting any transportation needs.

Frequently Asked Questions

How is the Virtual Academy different from the remote learning that occurred this past spring?

The Virtual Academy is a virtual program within the York One School District, staffed with YSD1 certified teachers that are equipped to deliver virtual coursework. The curriculum and teacher created lessons are designed to be delivered in a high-quality, engaging online virtual environment. The Virtual Academy will provide routine access to teachers that will be able to provide online additional support in small groups or individually.

Can my student participate in band or chorus?

Yes. Students enrolled at the Virtual Academy will remain connected to their home school. Therefore, they will have access to the Chorus, Band, ROTC, and various CATE courses on their respective home school campuses and as social distancing guidelines allow within those specialized classes.

Can my student participate in clubs or athletics?

Yes. Students enrolled at the Virtual Academy will have an opportunity to participate in clubs and athletics offered at their designated home school. Parents must provide transportation to and from the home school for club meetings or practices. Club meetings/activities and athletic practices occur after the conclusion of the school day.

Will there be a regular virtual class meeting schedule?

Yes. Students will be provided with a virtual class schedule that includes routine scheduled class time with their class and teacher(s). Students will be expected to participate in the scheduled class session, whole class activities, small group instruction, and individual meeting opportunities. In addition, teacher lessons will be recorded and available for students to access at their convenience or as needed. As teachers and students begin to establish a routine, the schedule may become more flexible and modified to include check points of learning throughout the day. It is not expected that students sit in front of a device during the entire school day.

Will students be required to attend scheduled class sessions or can they work at their own pace?

Students will be expected to attend and participate in scheduled class sessions. Direct instruction and learning activities will be provided by teachers in the online virtual setting. Additional scheduled sessions

and support opportunities will be available and can be scheduled individually by students. Students may complete assignments independently. However, students must maintain appropriate pacing, progress, and achievement. Students will need to adhere to completion and submission deadlines of assignments, projects and activities. Students will have 24/7 access to course content.

How does virtual coursework and requirements compare to the traditional classroom?

Although efforts will be made to maintain appropriate and relevant course requirements and assignments, the virtual learning environment requires students to be self-paced and self-directed to complete independent work and advocate for additional teacher support as needed. Students are advised to create daily, disciplined schedules to ensure completion of online tasks and activities.

Will my student be able to meet graduation requirements and graduate from YSD1 by enrolling in the Virtual Academy?

Yes. Students may attend the Virtual Academy as a current 12th grade student. Students that successfully complete required courses and meet all graduation requirements will receive a high school diploma and be included in the commencement exercises.

What academic support systems will be provided for virtual students?

The respective online learning platforms for K-6 and 7 – 12 include video lessons and additional tutorials. Teachers will also provide additional support by conducting small group instruction and individual sessions. Teachers may provide appropriate face to face academic support and learning opportunities on the Virtual Academy campus based upon student need. Teachers will be available via email and routine office hours. Students will have access to a school counselor and other members of the school community staff for further services as needed.

Will there be technical support for my student for the device or with the learning platform?

The district does not offer support for home internet service or personal devices. Teachers will provide onboarding and training opportunities for students and parents to learn to navigate the associated software and learning platform. The teachers will provide ongoing support with regards to the use of the learning platform throughout the year.

How will multiple students in the same family be served? Will they all need their own device?

Teachers will establish expectations, virtual operating procedures, and classroom routines with all students during the first few weeks of school. Teachers will work with families and students to provide flexibility within the schedule to accommodate multiple students in one home that may be sharing a device. However, it will be important for each student to submit assignments and complete items by the deadlines established by the teachers. Therefore, families are highly encouraged to maintain a routine that provides equal access to devices for multiple students in the home.

What if our internet is “spotty” or “unstable” often?

Students must have reliable internet that will support in a consistent manner the viewing of tutorials, participating in online teacher sessions, uploading assignments, and taking assessments. Unfortunately, we are unable to assist with internet services.

How do I know if this type of learning is the best fit for my child?

The virtual learning environment encourages students to be:

- Self-driven/motivated (Can your child stay focused while learning on the internet?)
- Self-paced/Self-directed (Can your child complete a project without procrastinating?)
- Able to advocate for additional support (Is your child comfortable asking questions if he/she needs help; Is your child comfortable with limited face-to-face interaction with his/her teacher?)
- Able to manage time (If older, can your child manage due dates, needed materials, stay organized; If younger, do you have time to help your child learn to keep his/her schoolwork organized?)

- Does your child have someone at home to assist if he/she has a technical problem?

Families are encouraged to think about the questions posed above and have conversations with their children about the expectations of a virtual learning environment.

What if my student wants to transfer back to the face to face environment?

In order to maintain social distancing guidelines and safety parameters in our face to face environments, elementary and middle school students must commit for the entire year to the virtual option while high school students must commit for the entire semester to the virtual option. There will be a process for students with extenuating circumstances to request and gain approval to return to the regular school environment. Approval will be on a case-by-case and space available basis.

How do I sign my student up for the Virtual Academy?

Students should first complete the annual primary registration process (Gateway) and provide proof of residency at their home school. Once completed, students/families must complete a ***Declaration of Intent*** form (found on our district website) indicating their request to be enrolled in the Virtual Academy, confirming their ability to provide reliable internet access and a personal device with a keyboard, and noting any transportation needs.

How can I learn more about the Virtual Academy?

The YSD1 Virtual Academy webinar includes additional information and may be accessed on our district website.