



# Webster School District

## Virtual Learning

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### 2020-2021

#### **What grades does Webster Virtual Learning (VL) serve?**

Kindergarten through 12th grade.

#### **What courses are offered?**

K-12 students take ELA, reading, math, science, social studies and their choices of electives per year. K-12 will use a synchronous learning model where students will log into the classrooms via Zoom during specific times. The learning management system for students in K and 1st grade will be SeeSaw. 2-12 grades will be using Google Classroom. If parents or students need help logging into Zoom or Google Classroom/SeeSaw, they should contact their student's teacher for a tutorial.

#### **Can a Student be Part-time VL?**

No. This pathway is for Webster District resident students/families who want a 100% online school experience.

#### **What is the Attendance Policy for VL?**

Attendance in online learning is performance-based. It is measured not only by logging into the course(s), but by successful submission of completed coursework, participation in course activities such as threaded discussions, communication with online instructor and following the timeline for completion of the course.

#### **Are Teachers Webster Teachers?**

Yes, the teachers are certified teachers in the Webster School District.

#### **Is Content Taught Via VL the Same as What is Taught in the Traditional Schools?**

Yes, students will be learning live at the same time as in-person students.

#### **Will High School VL Students Earn a Webster High School Diploma?**

Yes, students who attend and successfully complete VL courses will earn credits toward a Webster High School Diploma.

**Can VL Students Take Elective Courses at the Traditional Schools?**

Yes, we are going to do our best to maintain the feel of in-person learning but learning from home. There are some classes that will be more difficult for students but we will do our best to give students an authentic experience

**Can VL Students be Part of Middle and High School Clubs?**

Yes, if their family provides transportation.

**Can VL Students Play Middle and High School Sports?**

Yes, this pathway is currently only open to Webster residents.

**Can a Student Easily Transfer Back to the Traditional Pathway During the Year?**

Yes, but this will be limited to two times. With any class, when you have students frequently transitioning in and out, it causes a classroom disruption. We want to limit this disruption but understand that people's circumstances change.

**Can a Student Try VL and then Change Mind?**

Yes, but it will be limited as mentioned above.

**Do I have to Provide My Own Computer/Device?**

No, the District will supply a Chromebook.

**Do I Need to Provide Internet Access?**

Yes, families are responsible for internet access, so their child can log in and learn. We are offering programs through AT&T and Verizon where students can get a hot spot for a fee (plus possible equipment charges). We may also be able to offer this at a reduced price for families with financial difficulties.

**Will Students in VL Have to Take State Assessments?**

Yes, by law students in grade 3-11 need to complete the State required assessments. All State assessments will require students to participate in those assessments on campus. Last year the State waived State assessments and they are considering this again this year but no decision is expected for some time.

**Are VL Graduation Requirements the Same as Webster High School?**

Yes, students will have the same requirements as in-person learners.

**Does it Cost Anything for Families?**

No, it is paid for by the District.

### **Is VL Right for My Student and Me?**

Parents/Guardians play a key role in helping their student(s) be successful throughout the process of learning. The advantage of VL is that you are not around others and you can do it from your home. However, VL has challenges. This style requires just as much, if not more, time and energy as traditional in-school learning. VL transfers much of the responsibility of learning to the student and parent/guardian. That is, students will need to be self-motivated, have time management skills and strong communication skills in order to be successful.

### **What VL is NOT VL?**

VL is not meant to be used for short-term absences from school. Therefore, switching between a traditional school setting and VL will only be allowed on a limited basis.

### **Student Expectations.**

Students can expect to spend just as many hours completing a virtual course as they would in a traditional school setting. Minimally, students should plan to spend one hour per day on each semester-long course. The status of the student will be periodically evaluated by a District staff member based on individual performance, learning needs, and available resources.

### **Parent Expectations.**

VL is as different for parents as much as it is for students. In order to ensure your student is successful, you will need to take on an active role in your child's learning. This includes everything from the supervision of young learners, technical support for operating the program, as well as collaborating and communicating with virtual teachers to help ensure that your child is understanding the concepts being taught.