

WEBSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT



VIRTUAL LEARNING - 2020-2021

Overview

The Webster School District is offering a virtual learning option for the 2020-2021 school year to any K-12 student residing or enrolled in the District. The goal of this program is to provide an alternative to the traditional school setting for students who will be successful in an independent learning environment.

The following are examples of when virtual learning might be a good fit for a student/family:

- Health concerns regarding a traditional school setting related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A solution for schedule conflicts, home-based learners, homebound, adjudication, truancy, expulsions, teen parents and other special needs.
- Semester courses for credit deficient students and others unable to successfully participate in a traditional setting.
- Enrich course selection with approved courses not currently offered at Webster.

Virtual learning is not right for every student and/or family. To help determine if this could be a good fit for your household, here are some skills needed to ensure successful virtual learning:

- Time management and self-pacing.
- Ability and willingness to learn independently.
- Self-reflection to understand progress/grade reports.
- Effective communication skills.
- Ability to recognize useful learning strategies that support success.
- Self-motivation to remain on track and engaged without constant teacher guidance.
- Grade level reading, writing and comprehension skills to follow directions and create new information (grades 3 and up).
- Basic technical skills for using a device and web navigation.
- Recognize the difference between falling behind due to a lack of effort and lack of understanding.
- Celebrate accomplishments and be proud of what is turned in.

What is Virtual Education

Webster is using a synchronous model for instructional delivery in which instruction is done via Zoom by Webster teachers. Parents/Guardians play a key role in helping their student(s) be successful throughout the process of learning. The District recognizes the importance of offering an opportunity to students and families looking for alternatives to brick and mortar schooling.

There are advantages of virtual learning. However, virtual learning has challenges. This style required just as much, if not more, time and energy as traditional in school learning. Virtual learning transfers much of the responsibility of learning to students and parents/guardians. That is, students will need to be self-motivated, have time management skills and strong communication skills in order to be successful. For K-6 students, there is an at home learning coach component required as well.

Home Learning Coach

Typically a parent/guardian or other responsible adult caregiver.

Teacher

One or more teachers that will be assigned to be facilitators for the student who takes a virtual course. This facilitator will act as a support system for the virtually educated student and as a liaison between the student and parents when problems arise. The instructor will deliver course content through live Zoom instruction, Google Classroom/SeeSaw and may follow up by phone or through email regularly. Students can schedule real-time appointments with their teachers.

Mentor - A mentor may be assigned to assist students who are struggling in the virtual environment. They will be assigned based on need and will remain in contact with students and parents.

Student Commitment

Students can expect to spend just as many hours completing a virtual course as they would spend completing a course in a traditional setting. Minimally, students should plan to spend at minimum one hour per day on each semester-long class. Virtual teachers will teach and monitor student learning through Google Classroom. Students and families will be able to communicate and collaborate with the virtual teacher regarding content and questions related to the class. The status of the student will also periodically be monitored by the District school mentor to ensure student success.

Enrollment Procedures

This virtual learning option is available to any K-12 student residing in or open enrolled in the District. Families who choose this option

Before enrolling, families should understand that they will be expected to:

- Attend and complete work for all courses as agreed upon for the school year.
- Maintain a positive learning environment for the student.
- Take and review notes frequently.
- Communicate with the student's instructor regularly.
- Take ownership of the student's learning.

If you decide virtual learning is the right fit for your student, please enroll online or contact the appropriate school office with your request to enroll into the virtual learning option

Special Needs

If a student that is in Special Education chooses the Webster virtual option, ie, 504 and ELL, services will be provided through the Pupil Services team in collaboration with the District. A student's Case Manager/Special Education Teacher will reach out to the parent to review the IEP or 504 plan to ensure that students will receive the appropriate services in the new environment. The IEP will consider the following when making a plan:

- Course customization.
- Monitoring and reviewing performance.
- Providing input on how these plans may need to change.
- Providing support resources for IEP team meetings or parent conferences.

Case managers ensure student accommodations and modifications are supported by all educators, helping to better meet student needs so they can master subject material to be successful learners now and in the future.

Assessments

The District will work with families when/if Wisconsin State testing takes place. Students will be required to come to school campus for the following State assessments:

- Wisconsin Forward Exam: Grades 3-8
- ACT ASPIRE: Grades 9 and 10
- ACT: Grade 11

School Activities

Students will be allowed to participate in traditional school activities (co-curricular or extracurricular). In order to be eligible to participate in athletics or co-curricular activities, the student must meet all requirements of the District Activities Code. District codes of conduct, dress and activity codes pertain to virtual students in the same manner as traditional school students.

Grading

Assignments are graded by classroom teacher/s. Students will receive comments from the teacher on completed assignments if applicable. Students will also be able to check their progress by accessing an online grade book in Skyward Family/Student Access. Classes will use our traditional grading polices as defined in the student/parent handbook.

Graduation Requirements

Students who attend Webster Virtual School full time may receive a diploma from Webster High School. In order to graduate from Webster High School and receive a diploma, a student must satisfy the requirements set by the Webster School Board. The Webster High School educational program is designed to be completed in four years or eight semesters.

Online Attendance

Students will be required to attend and engage online with their daily classes following the regular daily class schedule. Attendance and engagement will depend on the method of content delivery

- Zoom - Login into the zoom meeting with audio and video - attendance will be recorded by Zoom participants
- Pre-Recorded Lessons or other daily instructions - Staff will determine specific means for a student to communicate attendance - examples may include submitting an assignment into google classroom, electronic proof they accessed the recorded lesson, an email stating they are working on the assigned content, etc.

Any student having internet issues that is not allowing them to participate in the scheduled class should **email their teacher immediately** to explain their absence. If email is not an option the student or parent/guardian should contact the high school office as soon as possible: 715-866-4281.

Teachers will take accurate attendance for distance students for each class period.

Webster School District Attendance Policy will be followed for distance students:

- A parent/guardian of a student who cannot attend school virtually should call/email the school before 9 a.m. and report the reason for the absence. If the school is not notified before 9 a.m of the absence, a notification will be sent home. For any absence to be considered excused, parents have until the end of the day the student returns to school to contact the school to report the reason for the absence.

Food Service

The Webster School District will be providing lunches to students who choose the virtual option. The price of lunches will be the same cost as the in person learning and if families are free and reduced, prices will be adjusted accordingly. Lunches can be picked up at the Elementary school on Monday and Wednesday morning for the week at 9:00 am. Fill out this [Meal Pick Up Form](#)

Acceptable Computer Use

Students are responsible for their behaviors and expected to comply with the District's Technology Responsible Use Policy. Students will be asked to sign the District policy during the enrollment process.

1. If providing your own equipment, technical support (if any) will be provided by the District.
2. If you are experiencing difficulties, contact the school office or ask your teacher to assist. If the teacher is unable to help, we will have our tech department contact you to assist in problems solving or changing out device.

Students are not allowed to record any zoom meeting or class with any device at any time.

Keys to Success in Virtual Courses

Students who are able to demonstrate the following may be more successful at virtual coursework:

- Log into your course/class at scheduled times.
 - Have good communication with your teachers at all times.
 - Read all information, view all resources and be responsible for understanding the information.
 - Work closely with a guidance counselor to plan appropriate course selection and to communicate needs.
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I have read and understand the Virtual Learning Option being provided for the 2020-21 school year.

Student _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

District Principal _____

Date _____