

FCPS Virtual Learning Academy

Dear FCPS Families,

As we wrap up the last few weeks of the school year, it is time to start planning for the upcoming school year! We are excited to share that the FCPS Virtual Learning Academy is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year!

VLA is a strong virtual program for those who fit the VLA student profile. Please see the information about VLA below along with the student profile to determine if VLA is the best learning environment for your student. If it is, please complete the application process.

Important information to review before applying:

- **Enrollment will be limited and acceptance is not guaranteed.** We want to ensure that each student is in the learning environment where they will continue to grow and succeed academically. VLA is a guided paced curriculum that partners with families to ensure students are on track to complete assignments independently while staying on pace to complete the courses.
- **Live instruction.** Students in elementary school will receive daily whole group live instruction via Zoom from a certified teacher. Elementary students will also attend small group lessons throughout the week based on student needs as determined by the teacher. Middle school and high school students will receive weekly live instruction from each subject area from a certified teacher. Attendance will be taken during each live lesson and VLA will follow all district created regulations and state truancy laws will be enforced for all students.
- **Enrollment.** VLA is a FCPS special program. Once a student is enrolled, the goal is for the student to stay enrolled for the entire school year. This expectation is to ensure there is no disruption in your student's learning. VLA staff will review student success on predetermined dates to determine if students are meeting their milestones for participation/attendance, pacing, and proficiency.

The application window for the 2021-2022 Virtual Learning Academy will open on **Monday, April 26th - Monday, May 10th**. You can complete the application [here](#).

Profile of a Successful Virtual Learning Student

To determine if virtual learning is the right fit for your child, review the following checklist. If you can answer yes to each question, virtual learning may be the right fit for your family!

- Does your child enjoy working online?
- Does your child have time each day to be focused, engaged to complete assignments?
- Does your child complete homework independently without a lot of reminders from adults in the home?
- Does your child enjoy completing projects/tasks independently?
- Was your child successful with virtual learning (including NTI-2DL) during the 2020-2021 school year?

Traits/Characteristics of a Successful Virtual Learning Student:

- Exhibits self-directed learning skills and the ability to work independently.
- Willing to actively engage in an average of 6 hours a day of classroom work, independent online lessons, and live instruction with a teacher.
- Self advocates if problems arise by reaching out to the teacher, counselor, or other support staff.
- Accepts critical thinking and decision making as part of the learning process.
- Establishes a good study environment
- Creates and follows a daily schedule
- Has effective time-management skills
- Possess basic technology skills
- Has continuous access to a personal or district-provided Chromebook and internet service.

Technology Requirements:

- Dependable internet connection
- A personal or district-provided Chromebook
- Scanner or mobile device to capture images of assignments for uploading
- Headphones, microphone, and webcam to participate in live classes and online discussions
- Printer (recommended)

Parents/guardians will need to:

- Provide current and up-to-date contact information
- Purchase all needed school supplies
- Create a dedicated learning space for your student
- Monitor progress and assignment completion
- Communicate with and respond to teachers as needed
- Ensure the student attends all scheduled synchronous (live) sessions
- Commit to an increased level of responsibility and support for student's attendance, participation, and assignment completion.

Other important information:

Attendance: Students will be required to attend daily live sessions with teachers where attendance will be tracked by a certified teacher at least two times each school day for full time virtual students with checks three hours apart. All districts created regulations and state truancy laws will be enforced for virtual students.

Guided Pacing: Each virtual school or program will design a course pacing guide with specific milestones used to ensure students stay on track to complete courses. This will include scheduled due dates for each assignment, but students will have flexibility in completing assignments throughout the grading period. Students will have the opportunity to complete asynchronous assignments later in the evening when parents/guardians are home to assist or for our older students who may already be in the workforce. All students/families will need to follow a schedule in order to be successful and stay on pace each week.

Student Success Monitoring: To ensure every student is successful in the virtual learning environment, teachers and staff will monitor student learning progress through both synchronous and asynchronous activities on a daily basis. The school will review and report on multiple measures including attendance, engagement, and student progress to determine future decisions about the student's appropriate learning environment. If progress is limited, teachers and staff will implement strategies to address specific student needs. If the virtual learning environment adversely impacts your students' learning, the school will partner with families to transition the student back to in-person instruction.

Technology Considerations: The district will provide each student with a Chromebook. Students must have reliable high-speed internet service to participate. If more than one student in a home will be participating in virtual learning, then the internet service must be able to support all students being online at the same time.

Electives: We offer a variety of electives and special courses that may differ from traditional offerings provided in face to face instructional settings.

Athletics, Extracurricular, and Co-Curricular Activities: Virtual learning students are allowed to participate in sports, extra-curricular activities, and after school events with their districted home school if they choose to do so. Virtual learning students are NOT allowed to participate in co-curricular activities at their districted home schools including band and orchestra.

In-Person Learning Opportunities: There will be opportunities for students to participate in in-person learning including Summer Ignite, intervention sessions, clubs, etc. Students may be required to report to campus for specific learning events throughout the year. Any in-person event will be communicated with families in advance to allow adequate time for planning.

District, State and Federal Assessments: Virtual learning students must fully participate in all required district, state, and federal assessments. Whenever possible, assessments that can be administered remotely will be administered virtually according to the guidelines provided by the state and/or assessment company. Some assessments may require students to be in-person and to report to an on-campus site to complete the assessment.