

PARENT AND FAMILY INFORMATION ABOUT “APS: VIRTUAL ACADEMY”

1. What is the Abington Public Schools Virtual Academy?

- The APS Virtual Academy has been established for families and students that are choosing to opt out of the hybrid model. These students will not attend school in-person but will instead conduct virtual learning, at home (full time), with an Abington Public Schools teacher.
- Virtual Academy students will meet Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requirements for time-on-learning (170 days; 850 hours for elementary schools and 935 hours for secondary schools).
- Students in the Virtual Academy will be required to follow a routine schedule that involves both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded) learning models. Grades K-6 will have some form of synchronous learning every day. For grades 7-12, synchronous learning time only occurs on Wednesdays in every subject for almost the entire day; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday are only asynchronous and/or independent.
- There is likely to be a fluctuation of students in and out of the Virtual Academy due to changes in the number of COVID-19 cases or other factors

2. Definitions:

- *Virtual Academy* is for those students that have completely opted out of the hybrid model.
- *Hybrid model* involves both in-person and remote learning using a cohort schedule of Green and Wave.
- *Remote Learning* is for hybrid students assigned to Cohort Green or Cohort Wave that work half of the week in-school and the other half at home based upon their Cohort schedule. Remote learning would also occur if we go to a full remote model based on an outbreak of COVID-19 as determined by the Department of Health and the State.

3. Virtual Academy pathway:

- Students may go into Virtual Academy at any time during the year and need to remain in Virtual Academy until one of three designated times: after Thanksgiving break, after February break, and after April break.
- If you choose to leave Virtual Academy, you MUST let the building principal know 2 weeks in advance. Deadlines for returning to hybrid are November 10, February 1, and April 5.

4. What does the Abington Virtual Academy look like at each grade level?

- At the elementary level (K-6), there will be at least one full time virtual teacher that teaches all core subjects of math, science, social studies, and ELA. If the Virtual Academy enrollment within the grade level increases to over 50 students, an additional virtual educator will be added.
- Unlike the elementary level, the secondary level (7-12) does not have one full time Virtual Academy teacher to cover all grades and subjects, but rather each child will have multiple hybrid teachers covering content courses in their areas of expertise for virtual students. For example, your student would have a different teacher for math, English, science, social sciences and Spanish. Certain advanced high school classes could potentially be offered through Virtual High School (VHS).

- Physical Education, Art, Music or other specials may not be available in the virtual model. However, if possible, specialist teachers may provide asynchronous lessons for the classroom teacher to add to the schedule

5. What curriculum will be used in the Abington Virtual Academy and How Will it be Accessed?

- The curricular materials used in the Virtual Academy will be identical to what is being used in the hybrid model. We will continue to use the Abington Public Schools curriculum that is aligned to the Massachusetts State Frameworks whether students are in the hybrid or virtual model. The reason is to provide consistency for students should they switch from hybrid to virtual or vice versa. This is the same curriculum we would be using if we were fully in person during a non-COVID era. Students will access learning materials through Canvas and Microsoft Teams.

6. Will attendance be taken and will my child be graded?

- Students' attendance will be taken every day just like in the hybrid model. This ensures that students receive the required time on learning designated by the State.
- Students will be graded and held accountable toward the learning standards in all subject areas. It is important that students fully participate in the synchronous and asynchronous lessons available to them in the Virtual Academy. In addition, students need to give their best effort for assessments, projects and school work as those grades will 'count'. Grades K - 4 will be using the new standards-based report card this year, regardless of whether they are in the hybrid or virtual model.

7. How can my child get into the Abington Virtual Academy?

- A survey was sent to parents in August asking if their child planned to return to school in the hybrid model or preferred a full virtual model. Families that indicated that their child preferred a full virtual model on the survey were automatically enrolled into the Academy. However, if students start the year in the hybrid model and want to switch to the Abington Virtual Academy, they can do so at any time by contacting their building principal and enrolling in the AVA.

8. If my child starts in the Abington Virtual Academy, can my child switch back to the hybrid model?

- Once a child enters the Abington Virtual Academy, they cannot go into the hybrid model until one of three designated times: after Thanksgiving break, after February break, and after April break.

9. If my child moves into the Abington Virtual Academy from the hybrid model, will they have the same teacher?

- Whether your child starts in the hybrid model and transitions to the Virtual Academy or switches from the Virtual Academy to the hybrid model at the end of the designated times (after Thanksgiving break, after February break, and after April break), it is most likely that your child will have a different teacher. At the elementary school level at this time, there is only one Abington Virtual Academy teacher per grade. Should the number of students opting out of hybrid and going into the virtual model increase significantly, there is the possibility that a hybrid elementary teacher may become a full virtual teacher to accommodate the

number of students. Although everything possible will be done to avoid this, it means a hybrid student's teacher could change during the school year. At the secondary level, virtual learning is by core subject area, therefore there is one virtual teacher by subject. Although this model is different than the elementary model and may require a change in teachers, it is less likely to occur the way the model is established by content area teachers.

Special Education Students: Students with Disabilities who participate in Virtual School will continue to receive Special Education and Related Services from Abington Public Schools' Student Services staff. Special Educators and Related Service Providers will make a good-faith effort to provide services that are consistent with students' service-delivery grids and measurable annual goals. In the event that certain aspects of a student's IEP are unable to be delivered or need to be adjusted to accommodate the virtual format, parents will receive prior written notice from Student Services staff.

Abington Virtual Academy Learning Expectations:

Elementary K-6 Virtual Academy (Opt-out Option)

Those students who choose to enroll in the Virtual Academy (a full remote experience for students not returning to the Abington Hybrid Model) will engage in online coursework with an APS elementary teacher. This experience will be both synchronous, asynchronous and include independent. Teachers will deliver direct instruction/modeling and provide guided practice opportunities. These sessions will connect to the independent practice/application tasks (asynchronous) students complete within their Canvas course. Feedback on asynchronous tasks will be delivered in a timely manner by the Virtual Academy educator.

Students who enroll in the fully virtual experience must remain in the virtual academy until one of three designated times: after Thanksgiving break, after February break, and after April break. Course curriculum and expectations will be aligned with APS and Massachusetts State Standards. Students will be graded on the work they have submitted within Canvas (virtual/asynchronous work) or online assessments. All student work will be measured against appropriate grade-level standards and scored according to the levels within our recently-adopted standards-based report cards (K-4).

Courses covered by their academic Virtual Academy Teacher will be Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies and Social Emotional Activities. Other courses in Virtual Academy, such as Music, PE, Art and Health will not be offered.

In the Virtual Academy, students will follow a routine academic learning schedule from:

- BBES: 9:05-3:05pm
- WES: 8:40am - 2:45pm
- Grades 5 & 6: 8:00am – 2:32pm

These schedules are consistent with the normal pre-COVID-19 day in order to meet the required time on learning.

Virtual Academy Example Schedules by Building:

1) BBES Virtual Academy Schedule

- Teachers and support staff will utilize both large and a small-group approaches to synchronous (live) teaching. This allows at times for a smaller teacher-student ratio and better ability to monitor progress. Ex. Within the *90- minute Math block, teacher delivers three ~20-minute mini-lessons: one to Group A, then Group B, and lastly Group C*
- A student would have 8 (4x literacy & 4x math) virtual classes per week.

BBES Example Schedules

Synchronous Learning (Live)	Asynchronous Learning (independent and/or pre-recorded)				Office Hours
BBES	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:05-9:30	Independent Work Science, Social Sciences, Math, or Literacy	Independent Work Science, Social Sciences, Math, or Literacy	Whole Class Meeting (Synchronous)	Independent Work Science, Social Sciences, Math, or Literacy	Independent Work Science, Social Sciences, Math, or Literacy
9:30-10:00	Snack & Independent Reading Teacher records same literacy mini-lesson and posts to Canvas	Snack & Independent Reading/Book Exploration	9:30-10:30 OFFICE HOUR	Snack & Independent Reading/Book Exploration	Snack & Independent Reading/Book Exploration
10:00-11:45	Literacy Block 20-minute Small Group Synchronous Lesson, Asynchronous independent tasks/assessments (in Canvas, Wonders online, literacy websites) with available virtual support by paraprofessionals, movement breaks	Literacy Block	Literacy Block	Literacy Block	Literacy Block
11:45-12:45	Lunch/Movement	Lunch/Movement	Lunch/Movement	Lunch/Movement	Lunch/Movement
12:45-2:15	Math Block 20-minute Small Group Synchronous Lesson, Asynchronous independent tasks/assessments (in Canvas, IXL, ST Math, enVision online) with available virtual support by paraprofessionals, movement breaks	Math Block	Math Block	Math Block	Math Block
2:15-2:45	Snack/Independent Math Fact Practice	Snack & Independent Math Fact Practice	Whole Class Meeting (Synchronous)	Snack & Independent Math Fact Practice	Snack & Independent Math Fact Practice
2:45-3:05	Check Out Meeting	Check Out Meeting		Check Out Meeting	Check Out Meeting
3:05-3:25	Teacher Office Hour (Teacher will be available synchronously for questions, support)	Teacher Office Hour		Teacher Office Hour	Teacher Office Hour

2) WES Virtual Academy Schedule: Example Schedule

- Teachers and support staff will utilize both large and a small-group approaches to synchronous (live) teaching. This allows at times for a smaller teacher-student ratio and better ability to monitor progress. Ex. Within the 90- minute Math block, teacher delivers three ~20-minute mini-lessons: one to Group A, then Group B, and lastly Group C
- A student would have 8 (4x literacy & 4x math) virtual classes per week.

	Synchronous Learning (Live)	Asynchronous Learning (independent and/or pre-recorded)			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday (Teacher Collaboration)	Thursday	Friday
8:40	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting/ SEL Focus	Morning Meeting (full class)	Morning Meeting/ SEL Focus	Morning Meeting
9:10	Mystery Science	Mystery Science	Canvas coursework	Social Studies	Assessments
9:45	Math: 20-minute Small Group Synchronous Lesson, Asynchronous independent tasks/assessments (in Canvas, Wonders online, literacy websites) with available virtual support by paraprofessionals, movement breaks	Math	“ ”	Math	Math
11:00	Canvas coursework	Canvas coursework	“ ”	Canvas coursework	Canvas coursework
11:30	Lunch/ movement	Lunch/ movement	Lunch/ movement	Lunch/ movement	Lunch/ movement
12:30	Reading: 20-minute Small Group Synchronous Lesson, Asynchronous independent tasks/assessments (in Canvas, Wonders online, literacy websites) with available virtual support by paraprofessionals, movement breaks	Reading	Social Studies	Reading	Reading
2:00	Independent Reading	Math Practice	Remote Check-in	Math Practice	Independent Reading
2:25	Check-Out Meeting & Office Hour	Check-Out Meeting & Office Hour	Closing Meeting (full class)	Check-Out Meeting & Office Hour	Check-Out Meeting & Office Hour

Middle School Example Grades 5 & 6:

Synchronous Learning (Live)	Asynchronous Learning (independent and/or pre-recorded)
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Period	Time	M	T	W	TH	F
HR	8:00-8:20	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
1	8:20-9:05	8:20-9:15 ELA Synchronous 9:15-10:35 Math Asynchronous	8:20-9:15 ELA Asynchronous 9:15-10:35 Math Synchronous	8:20-9:15 ELA Asynchronous 9:15-10:35 Math Asynchronous	8:20-9:15 ELA Synchronous 9:15-10:35 Math Asynchronous	8:20-9:15 ELA Asynchronous 9:15-10:35 Math Synchronous
2	9:05-9:50					
3	9:50-10:35					
4	10:35-11:20	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work
5	11:20-12:05	Academic Lab	Academic Lab	Academic Lab	Academic Lab	Academic Lab
Lunch	12:05-12:50	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
6	12:50-1:35	Science	Social Studies	Social Studies	Science	Social Studies
7	1:35-2:20	Social Studies	Science	Science	Social Studies	Science
End of Day	2:20-2:32	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work

Grades 7-12 Virtual Academy (Opt-out Option)

- Those students who choose to enroll in a full remote experience (students not returning to Abington High School Hybrid Model) will engage in online coursework with an APS teacher. This experience is mostly an asynchronous and independent with daily check-ins with a paraprofessional (7 -8) and your Guidance Counselor (9-12 only) and one 45-minute synchronous lesson per week (Wednesdays) per course. Students who enroll in the fully virtual experience must remain in the virtual academy until one of three designated times: after Thanksgiving break, after February break, and after April break. Course curriculum and expectations will be aligned with APS and Massachusetts state standards.
- Teachers will be responsible for developing and delivering the APS approved curriculum asynchronously Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and one 45-minute synchronous lesson on Wednesdays as scheduled below. Teachers and students will use Canvas as the primary means of instruction, progress monitoring, assessment, and feedback.
- The district reserves the right to choose which courses will run based on student enrollment, graduation requirements and staff availability. Remote courses will be distributed evenly across licensed, experienced teachers to the extent possible.

Special Education Students: Students with Disabilities who participate in Virtual School will continue to receive Special Education and Related Services from Abington Public Schools' Student Services staff. Special Educators and Related Service Providers will make a good-faith effort to provide services that are consistent with students' service-delivery grids and measurable annual goals. In the event that certain aspects of a student's IEP are unable to be delivered or need to be adjusted to accommodate the virtual format, parents will receive prior written notice from Student Services staff.

Sample Student Schedule Grades 7 and 8 (Synchronous Wednesday)

Synchronous Learning (Live)	Asynchronous Learning (independent and/or pre-recorded)
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Sample Grade 8 Student Virtual Schedule

Period	Time	M	T	W	TH	F
		Day 1	Day 4		Day 4	Day1
HR	8:00-8:20	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
1	8:20-9:05	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work
2	9:05-9:50	English	English	English	English	English
3	9:50-10::35	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
4	10:35-11:20	History	History	History	History	History
5	11:20-12:05	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science
Lunch	12:05-12:50	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
6	12:50-1:35	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
7	1:35-2:32	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work

Sample High School Student Virtual Schedule (Synchronous Wednesday)

Synchronous Learning (Live)	Asynchronous Learning (independent and/or pre-recorded)
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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:30 - 10:15	English	English	English	English	English
10:15 - 11:00	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
11:00 - 11:45	History	History	History	History	History
11:45 - 12:15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:15 - 1:00	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science
1:00 - 1:45	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
1:45 - 3:30	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work	Independent Work

Examples of Abington High School Virtual Courses:

Math: (6)

- Accelerated Math TBD
- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry
- PreCalculus

Science: (4)

- Physical Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Science 12 TBD

Social Sciences (4):

- World History
- US History I
- US History II
- State of the Union

English (4):

English 9
English 10
English 11
English 12

Spanish (3):

Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III

Wellness (This could wait until Semester II)

*VHS for AP and/or Spanish IV