



Office of Academics
400 North Church Street
Monroe, NC 28112
Phone 704.296.9898
Fax: 704.289.9182

Union County Public Schools Virtual Academy (Plan D) School Within a School Model

As we work together to educate our children during this challenging time, Union County Public Schools has established guidelines to support parents as we prepare for the reopening of schools. While there is no substitute for a nurturing, relationship-driven classroom, we believe that with your assistance, we can continue to provide students with meaningful learning opportunities while Plan B is in place.

The UCPS Virtual Academy will offer a complete education for students through a structured online curriculum. The academy will be staffed by UCPS teachers who will be providing the same quality instruction provided every day in our classrooms. To the greatest degree possible, students will be assigned teachers from their current school. However, this may not be possible in all cases and students may be served by a teacher from a neighboring cluster area school. Regardless of the teacher assignment, students will remain enrolled at their current school and will continue to receive updates, support, and services through school-based staff.





Students in the Virtual Academy will have flexibility to work at their own pace and schedule over the course of the day depending on family needs. Consistent daily schedules will include online instruction that will be a combination of both live and recorded sessions. In addition there will be breaks and flexible times for students to meet virtually in smaller groups built into the schedule. Social and emotional wellness will be taken into consideration in scheduling.

In an effort to ensure that schools are properly staffed for the implementation of a Virtual Academy, UCPS will receive applications from parents via [Scribbles](#) July 20-26 to determine the number of students wishing to select this option. Schools may need to make adjustments with their staffing and schedules in order to accommodate the number of students interested in pursuing this option. As such, parents will be asked to commit to the Virtual Academy for a minimum of one semester. This is necessary to ensure each school has staff allocated correctly to support the needs of both virtual and in person instruction.





Growing Possibilities.

In compliance with federal law, UCPS administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability.

Parent Involvement for Students in the Virtual Academy

 Ensure Access to Materials	 Establish Daily Schedule for Student	 Monitor Student Progress	 Provide Support and Assistance
Assist students while navigating online courses and provide access to basic school supplies.	Create and maintain a daily routine and ensure students follow established meeting times from their teacher. Give students a quiet place to learn and work.	Check in daily to make sure students are meeting due dates and completing tasks/assignments through Canvas observer access.	Provide assistance and help students in their learning. Parents will attend an online orientation offered by their school since there will be more support needed for students in the Virtual Academy.

Expectations/Activities for Students in the Virtual Academy

Daily Learning Expectations		Types of Learning Activities	
 Time	 Assignments and Attendance	 Computer Based Instruction (2-12)	 Hands On Materials
<p>High School: Approximately 90 minutes per subject per day on instructional activities</p> <p>Middle School: Approximately 60 minutes per core subject, and 30 minutes per related arts subject, per day on instructional activities (this includes courses for high school credit).</p> <p>Elementary School: Approximately 45 minutes per core subject, and 30 minutes per related arts subject, per day on instructional activities.</p>	<p>Orientation: Parents and students will attend an online orientation offered by their school prior to the start of classes.</p> <p>Number of assignments for each class/course will vary by content area and level.</p> <p>Attendance will be captured through PowerSchool each day.</p> <p>Assignments will be graded and feedback offered through Canvas. Standard grading scales will apply – please contact your school for specific details.</p>	Students will access course materials daily through Canvas to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communicate with teachers and classmates • view instructional videos posted by teachers • obtain online instructional activities (videos, review material, resources, etc.) • turn in assignments and receive teacher feedback 	Print materials are not available for those enrolled in the Virtual Academy.

Differences Between Virtual Learning (Plan D) and Plan B with Remote Learning

Option	Daily Schedule	Bus Service	Meal Service	Internet and Device	Application	Parental Academic Support	Print Materials Available
Plan B	At school one day Remote learning 4 days/wk Follow class pacing Access to Canvas	Provided by UCPS	Provided by UCPS	Supported by UCPS	Not required	Recommended	Yes (upon request)
Virtual Academy (Plan D)	All online 5 days/wk Self-paced Access to Canvas	Not provided	Not provided	Supported by UCPS	Required	Required	No

Sample Daily High School Plan D Virtual Learning Schedule (subject to change based on student schedule)

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Classes
9:35 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	Teacher Instruction/Feedback/Check-in on Classes
11:05 a.m. – 11:35 p.m.	Lunch
11:35 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Classes
1:10 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Break
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Classes

Note: The schedule above is merely a suggestion; virtual learning is intended to be flexible and adaptive and parents/students should consult with teachers to determine the best recommended schedule.

Grades 9-12 Highlights

- Students should be expected to spend no more than 90 minutes on activities per subject/course each day.
- It is strongly recommended that students adopt a consistent, predictable schedule each day.
- Students receive instruction, assignments, and/or activities in each course for which they are enrolled.
- Students/parents should direct questions to the student’s virtual teacher(s).
- Teacher(s) should respond to student/parent inquiries within 24 hours to the greatest extent possible.
- Teacher(s) will interact with whole group daily and make individual contact with students as needed.
- Flexibility is key – instruction and activities should take into account each student’s current situation.
- **The example above is merely a suggestion; students are expected to work at their own pace and their schedule will be determined by family needs and staffing availability for interaction via virtual mode.**

Growing Possibilities.



Sample Daily Middle School Virtual Learning Schedule (subject to change based on student schedule)

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Core Subjects
9:50 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Related Arts
10:25 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Student Free Choice
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Teacher Instruction/Feedback/Check-in on Subjects
12:05 p.m. – 12:35 p.m.	Lunch
12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Core Subjects
1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Related Arts
2:20 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Core Subjects

Note: The schedule above is merely a suggestion; virtual learning is intended to be flexible and adaptive and parents/students should consult with teachers to determine the best recommended schedule.

Grade 6-8 Highlights

- Students should be expected to spend approximately 60 minutes on activities per subject per day (M-F).
- Students should be expected to spend approximately 30 minutes on related arts per day (M-F).
- It is strongly recommended that students adopt a consistent, predictable schedule each day.
- Students receive instruction, assignments, and/or activities in each course for which they are enrolled.
- Students/parents should direct questions to the student’s virtual teacher(s).
- Teacher(s) should respond to student/parent inquiries within 24 hours to the greatest extent possible.
- Teacher(s) will interact with whole group daily and make individual contact with students as needed.
- Flexibility is key – instruction and activities should take into account each student’s current situation.
- **The example above is merely a suggestion; students are expected to work at their own pace and their schedule will be determined by family needs and staffing availability for interaction via virtual mode.**

Grades 2-5 Sample Daily Plan D Virtual Learning Schedule (subject to change based on student schedule)

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Core Subjects
8:20 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Related Arts
8:55 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Break
9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Core Subjects
10:05 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Break
10:25 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.	Teacher Instruction/Feedback/Check-in on Subjects
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Lunch
12:05 p.m. – 12:35 p.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Related Arts
12:40 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	Student Movement/Exercise
1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Complete Activities/Assignments for Core Subjects

Note: The schedule above is merely a suggestion; virtual learning is intended to be flexible and adaptive and parents/students should consult with teachers to determine the best recommended schedule.

Growing Possibilities.



Grade 2-5 Highlights

- Students will spend approximately 45 minutes on activities per core subject each day.
- Students should expect to spend approximately 30 minutes on each related arts subject each day.
- It is strongly recommended that students adopt a consistent, predictable schedule each day.
- Students receive instruction, assignments, and/or activities in each course for which they are enrolled.
- Students/parents should direct questions to teachers of the subject/course.
- Teachers should respond to student/parent inquiries within 24 hours to the greatest extent possible.
- Teachers will make individual contact with students as needed throughout the week.
- Flexibility is key – instruction and activities should take into account each student’s current situation.
- New instruction will be introduced and students are expected to stay engaged and participate in the learning opportunities.
- **The example above is merely a suggestion; students are expected to work at their own pace and their schedule will be determined by family needs and staffing availability for interaction via virtual mode.**

AIG Support

Students who are eligible will continue to receive AIG support in the Virtual Academy. Once you have been enrolled in the academy, please contact your school with any questions on what to expect.

CTE

Students enrolled in credential-based CTE courses interested in a full-time online experience, in lieu of a Virtual Academy option, should contact their school to discuss this as an option.

Co-curricular and Extracurricular Participation

Students & families who participate in the UCPS Virtual Academy will be permitted to participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, including athletics, through their current school (note: courses delivered through the virtual academy are NOT NCAA Clearinghouse approved at this time; therefore, these courses would not count toward collegiate eligibility for potential college athletes).

For more information about NCAA eligibility, please consult your high school counselor

Courses Offered

All core courses in grades 2-8 and all high school courses required for graduation will be offered. Because course offerings for the Virtual Academy will be built based on the needs of students who enroll (what courses they have registered for) and the availability of teachers, it is difficult to definitively identify exactly which specific courses will be available at this point. Simply put, the more students that enroll, the larger and more expansive the list of courses will become. The intent will be to make every effort to ensure that there is a baseline menu of both core and elective course offerings across multiple content areas.

Devices

Students in grades 2-12 will receive a Chromebook issued by UCPS. Individual schools will communicate with families on how to obtain a device in order to participate in the Virtual Academy.

Dual Language Immersion

Students enrolled in a dual language immersion program interested in a full-time online experience, in lieu of Virtual Academy option, should contact their school to discuss this as an option.

Growing Possibilities.



Enrollment

Parents and student must commit to a minimum of one semester before a student is enrolled in the Virtual Academy. At the conclusion of the semester the student may opt to return to the traditional school setting or remain in the Academy for the rest of the academic year (pending his/her academic progress).

Students who enroll in the Virtual Academy will not lose their seat at their assigned school. This includes those students currently assigned to a choice school or magnet program.

Parents who do not enroll their student during the application window may speak to their student's principal about enrollment at a later date and the options available.

ESL Support

Under the Virtual Academy option students who are eligible will continue to receive ESL support. Please contact your school with questions on what to expect for your student during the virtual experience. Please note that it may not be the best option for students receiving support services.

International Baccalaureate

Students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program interested in a full-time online experience, in lieu of a Virtual Academy option, should contact their school to discuss this as an option.

Special Education/504 and Related Services

Exceptional Children teachers and other service providers will continue to deliver special education and related services to students while enrolled in the virtual academy. Specially designed instruction will be administered in accordance with the student's IEP/504. If there is an adjustment to the amount of instructional time offered each week under remote learning, then special education and related services will adjust their schedules and service delivery models in the virtual environment. Special education/504 and related services may be delivered through the following mediums:

- **Virtual Classes:** providing virtual classes on a platform that the student is accustomed to using.
- **Phone Calls:** using a telephone call to work on an assignment aligned to an IEP goal, either online or a classroom packet. This could include a conference call including a small group of other students.
- **Interactive exchange:** utilizing a chat room or a shared Google Doc.
- **Video with a follow up:** providing students with pre-recorded instructional video and activities, based on their IEP goals. Follow up with instructive feedback by means listed above.
- **Assignments with teacher support:** providing assignment(s) (based on IEP goals) in Canvas

Please contact your student's school if you have specific questions about the delivery of specialized services and instruction while enrolled in the Virtual Academy. ***It is important that parents understand that the virtual option may not be the best choice for students with disabilities or those who require specially designed instruction.***

Student Social and Emotional Health and Safety

Students will continue to receive social and emotional support from their assigned school. Support staff will be available for students enrolled in the Virtual Academy. Parents and students can expect the following:

- Reintroduce school support teams (nurses, school social worker, school counselor(s), school psychologist, School Resource Officer) to students in a virtual format.
- Support teams will provide mental and emotional health support to students through individual meetings, and small-group sessions as needed.

Growing Possibilities.



- Counseling support and administrative support will be available to students enrolled in the Virtual Academy.

Please contact your student's school if you have specific questions about the availability of social and emotional support while enrolled in the Virtual Academy.

Technical Support

- Special technical support line has been established for student technical support, device troubleshooting, and maintenance issues.
 - Teacher Technical support may be accessed at helpdesk.ucps.k12.nc.us
 - Student Technical support may be accessed at studenthelpdesk.ucps.k12.nc.us