

Elementary Virtual Academy Expectations

Commitment

At the elementary level, students who opt for distance learning will make a one-semester commitment to distance learning, and progress will be expected to take place. To remain enrolled in the FPS Virtual Academy, students must be on pace in their coursework and meet grade appropriate benchmarks. **Attendance is based on weekly lesson completion.** (1 lesson per course per day x 7 courses = 35 lessons per week)

Semester **A**: August 25, 2021 through January 14, 2023.

Semester **B**: January 17, 2021 through May 23, 2023.

Coursework

All coursework will be completed through the North Dakota Center for Distance Education (NDCDE) and will be asynchronous. Parents or guardians will be required to serve as their student's learning coach (LC) and provide academic support at home, particularly when a student is testing.

Elementary students will take language arts, math, science, social studies, art, technology, physical education and health.

It is NDCDE policy to drop students who have not made progress in their classes in the first two weeks. If your student is dropped from NDCDE, it will be necessary to meet with both Distance Learning Academy and home building administrators to discuss enrollment.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken retroactively in PowerSchool each week based on the progress reports provided by NDCDE. If a distance learning student makes adequate weekly progress in their coursework (see below), they will be counted present. If not, they will be considered absent for the appropriate number of days.

Example:

Student is signed up for 7 classes and will be expected to complete NO LESS THAN one assignment per class per day. (Please note: This number does not guarantee the student will complete the course within the semester. This is the minimum requirement for attendance only - not course credit.)

35 lesson = 1 week of attendance (1 lesson/day x 5 days x 7 courses)			
5 days	35 lesson	5 days present	0 days absent
4 days	28 lessons	4 days present	1 day absent (M)
3 days	21 lessons	3 days present	2 days absent (M, T)
2 days	14 lessons	2 days present	3 days absent (M, T, W)
1 day	7 lessons	1 day present	4 days absent (M, T, W, Th)
0 days	> 7 lessons	0 days present	5 days absent (M, T, W, Th, F)

*Typical 5 day week (Monday to Sunday) - 7 days is a week

**Rubric would adjust for short weeks

Progress Reports

Students taking their coursework through NDCDE will still receive a progress report from Fargo Public Schools (FPS) at the end of the trimester. The information in this report will reflect the work successfully completed through NDCDE. NDCDE also sends weekly progress updates via email.

Support

Although classes are entirely asynchronous, there will be a scheduled 20-minute weekly conference between the NDCDE instructor, the parent or guardian designated as the learning coach, and the student.

School building counseling resources continue to be available to all students, in building and virtual. Please reach out with any needs you may have.

Lori Nappe serves as Administrator for the elementary Virtual Academy. She can be reached via email at nappel@fargo.k12.nd.us or by phone at (701) 446-1601.

Helpful Hints (via the North Dakota Center for Distance Education website)

How Can Parents Help Their Children Be Successful In An Online School Environment?

- Stick to the schedule - include free time, extra activities, work, etc. Write the schedule out so it is easier to follow.
- Dedicate a space for working on school and limit distractions.
- Be flexible.
- Understand the school's policies.
- Ask questions! Do not be afraid to ask the staff at the school questions you have in order to help your student be successful!
- Find other parents and discuss what works for them/their student.
- Check state law regarding homeschool and graduation requirements.
- Work with the academic adviser/school counselor to discuss course options and a plan of study.
- Have students take career inventories and develop goals for after high school to help with course planning.
- Ask the school staff for specific support for topics/skills where your student may need extra help.

Helping Children With Social & Emotional Health

- Keep them connected - Find opportunities for safe interaction with peers.
- Utilize school counseling staff.
- Communicate with your child.
- Books, apps, and games can help get the conversation started.
- Practice a healthy lifestyle.
- Get adequate sleep.
- Understand risk factors.
- Reach out to professionals if you are concerned with your child's behavior.