



FPS Virtual Academy – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can I register my child in FPS Virtual Academy?

A: Parents may register their child into FPS Virtual Academy for the fall 2020 semester by logging into PowerSchool. The FPS Virtual Academy option is available beginning on Saturday, August 1 through Saturday, August 8, 2020. Students who elect to begin the school year at FPS Virtual Academy may elect to return to in-person instruction at the end of the first semester. FPS Virtual Academy students are not allowed to return to in-person instruction prior to the close of first semester.

Q: If my child is new to FPS, how do I enroll my child and select the FPS Virtual Academy learning option?

A: Please go to the Online New Student Enrollment & Registration site to register and enroll your child if new to FPS Virtual Academy. During the online registration process, parents may select the FPS virtual learning option.

Q: If my child is enrolled in the FPS Virtual Academy, will they still be associated with their home campus?

A: Yes. FPS Virtual Academy enrolled students will continue to be connected to their home campus. However, your child's FPS virtual teachers may not be associated with the home campus.

Q: Will the FPS Virtual Academy last for just the Fall semester or the entire 2020-2021 school year?

A: The FPS Virtual Academy will be conducted for the entire 2020-2021 school year. Please remember, students who elect to begin the school year enrolled in the FPS Virtual Academy may elect to return to in-person instruction at the end of first semester. FPS Virtual Academy enrolled students are not allowed to return to in-person instruction prior to the close of first semester.

Q: What are the next steps following my child's enrollment in the FPS Virtual Academy?

A: As information is finalized in preparation for the start of virtual instruction on Wednesday, September 2, 2020, parents will receive updated guidance from FPS Virtual Academy personnel.

Q: If I have specific questions regarding the FPS Virtual Academy, who do I contact at FPS?

A: If you have any questions regarding the start of the school year and your child's enrollment in the FPS Virtual Academy, please email virtualacademy@fargo.k12.nd.us or call (701) 446-1077.

Q: Can I change my child's enrollment into the FPS Virtual Academy to in-person at the home campus before the first day of school on Wednesday, September 2?

A: For staffing purposes, we ask once a family registers for the FPS Virtual Academy their commitment remains unless there are unusual circumstances. The change can be accommodated if your decision to elect in-



person instruction at the home campus is made by midnight on Friday, August 14, 2020. Your request to revoke your child's FPS Virtual Academy enrollment and request in-person instruction at the home campus may be emailed to virtualacademy@fargo.k12.nd.us.

Q: If my child is enrolled in FPS Virtual Academy on the first day of instruction, when can my child elect to attend in-person instruction at their home campus?

A: Parents will be provided the opportunity to return their children to in-person instruction at the home campus prior to the end of first semester. Once the grading period has closed and grades are finalized, students may return to their home campus on the first day of second semester. Students who attend in-person instruction may elect to enroll in the FPS Virtual Academy and begin virtual instruction at the beginning of second semester.

Q: If my FPS Virtual Academy enrolled child elects to return to in-person instruction at the end of first semester, will my child have the same teachers when he/she returns?

A: Staffing of the FPS Virtual Academy assigned teachers is not campus specific. There is no guarantee that if your child returns to in-person instruction at their home campus that they will have the same teacher(s). Students who elect to leave in-person instruction at the end of first semester and enroll in the FPS Virtual Academy may not have the same teachers as provided during in-person instruction.

Q: Will there be an FPS Virtual Academy engagement session?

A: FPS teachers will make contact with their FPS Virtual Academy students and families prior to the first day of school. We anticipate the FPS Virtual Academy teachers using technology to meet students and parents/guardians.

Q: Will there be any changes to the attendance policy this year?

A: There will be no changes for students opting to take in-person instruction. Students attending FPS Virtual Academy will have the same daily and period attendance requirements as those choosing in-person instruction; although, students and teachers will engage virtually.

Q: How will attendance be taken for FPS Virtual Academy?

A: Just as with traditional on-campus attendance, teachers will take and post attendance in PowerSchool. Students' attendance is the combination of being logged into synchronous sessions and completing assigned tasks associated with a course.

Q: How do I report my child's absences from FPS Virtual Academy virtual classes?

A: Further information will be provided on how to report your child's absences from FPS Virtual Academy virtual classes.



Q: Will grading guidelines be different for virtual instruction vs. in-person instruction?

A: No, the grading guidelines for virtual instruction must be consistent with the district's policies for in-person instruction. The high school Virtual Academy will utilize the North Dakota Center for Distance Education. Their grading practices will be utilized for high school.

Q: Will courses taken for high school credit in FPS Virtual Academy be included in GPA calculations, class rank (top 10%) and quartile rank?

A: Yes, credits will be transcribed onto the student's official transcript. These courses will be included in calculation of GPA.

Q: What will the online platform be for FPS Virtual Academy?

A: Students will engage in virtual learning through the district learning management system (LMS), EduCal. Additional instructional resources will be available just as they are available with in-person instruction. The North Dakota Center for Distance Education will use their own LMS.

Q: Will parents be provided resources to support their child's virtual learning in FPS Virtual Academy?

A: Students will have access to digital and physical resources. Students should follow the instructions for logging into the FPS digital resources. Also, your child's FPS Virtual Academy teacher will be able to assist.

Q: Does an FPS Virtual Academy student require access to a technology device and internet to participate in FPS Virtual Academy?

Yes, FPS Virtual Academy students will be issued a district device and internet service. There are several Internet Service Providers where you can obtain free or reduced Internet. FPS will assist families who need help in accessing the internet service.

Q: Will FPS Virtual Academy enrolled students have access to instructional materials such as textbooks, library books, school provided supplies, etc.?

A: Yes. FPS Virtual Academy enrolled students will be provided all course related instructional materials for each class.

Q: What does the FPS Virtual Academy instruction and learning format include?

A: FPS Virtual Academy virtual instruction will be available for students in Kindergarten through grade 12. The FPS curriculum will be utilized, and instruction will be delivered on a defined schedule. There will be a blend of both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Synchronous Instruction is two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. Asynchronous Instruction does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. Teachers will teach virtually using best practices in online learning. Students will receive direct instruction from their teacher and will have the opportunity to access their teachers during office hours.



Q: How will virtual instruction for the 2020-2021 school year be different from the virtual instruction provided during the spring 2020 school closure?

A: Virtual instruction provided during the spring of 2020 relied heavily on concepts previously taught. Teachers were learning how to deliver instruction online using tools like Google Classroom, SeeSaw, ZOOM, etc. FPS Virtual Academy teachers will receive professional development in August to be well-equipped to deliver rigorous instruction online. This fall, students will be interacting with their teachers in real time every day. Instruction will be based on the grade/course state standards, as outlined in the FPS curriculum. High school students will follow the North Dakota Center for Distance Education's instructional delivery model.

Q: Will the FPS Virtual Academy virtual instructional day include live, teacher-led instruction for the full length of the school day?

A: The FPS Virtual Academy instructional day will include a blend of both synchronous, real-time, live instruction between teachers and students online, as well as asynchronous, instruction that does not require the teacher and student to be engaged at the same time, learning. Learning opportunities will be on a schedule. High school students will follow the North Dakota Center for Distance Education's instructional delivery model.

Q: What will a typical virtual daily schedule look like for an FPS Virtual Academy student?

A: The amount of instructional time listed on the sample schedules reflects the time allocated for that content area, not the amount of time a student is working in front of a computer. Please refer to the FPS Smart Restart Plan's section on the FPS Virtual Academy [website](#).

Q: Can FPS Virtual Academy students enrolled in secondary asynchronous courses attend classes in person at their home campus during the instructional school day?

A: No, students must select in-person or virtual.

Q: Can FPS Virtual Academy students enrolled in secondary asynchronous co-curricular/extracurricular courses attend scheduled practices and events before the start and at the end of the school day?

A: Yes. FPS Virtual Academy students may report to their home campus for before school and after school practices, competitions and performances. FPS Virtual Academy students will remain enrolled with their home campus co-curricular/extracurricular teacher, coach and director.

Q: Will transportation be provided for FPS Virtual Academy enrolled students to attend their before the start of and after the end of the instructional day co-curricular/extracurricular program?

A: No. FPS Virtual Academy enrolled students must have their own transportation to and from campus to attend the before and after school student programs. FPS Virtual Academy students are eligible for transportation when attending an away event with their co-curricular/extracurricular program participants.

Q: What about FPS Virtual Academy students and receiving their specific related services?

A: FPS Virtual Academy students will receive all services determined by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Language Plan (ILP). Most related services such as psychological services and other



therapies will be provided virtually; however, certain services may require students to access an FPS campus or facility. FPS Virtual Academy cannot provide every accommodation/modification that may be needed. If parents choose virtual academy and the student is not being provided FAPE, the IEP team must meet to discuss educational placement.

Q: Will FPS Virtual Academy enrolled students receive special education services? And, how will IEP meetings be held?

A: Yes, FPS Virtual Academy students will receive special education services as outlined in their schedule of services by their IEP. Instructional supports such as in-class support, resource classes, accommodations, and modifications will be provided in FPS Virtual Academy by special education professionals. IEPs for FPS Virtual Academy students will be held virtually through video conferencing.

Q: Will advanced placement courses (AP) be offered for students enrolled in FPS Virtual Academy?

A: North Dakota Center for Distance Education does offer some AP courses.

Q: Will students be able to take Dual Credit courses for college credit?

A: North Dakota Center for Distance Education offers Dual Credit courses. Parents would be responsible for the additional cost of these course that exceed the cost of a distance learning course.

Q: Will my student need to enable the camera on their computer?

A: Yes, your student will need to enable the camera on the computer just as if he/she was on a video conference call with their teacher.

Q: Will my student receive instructions on how to take an assessment?

A: Yes, your student will receive instructions on how to take an assessment and have an opportunity to take a practice assessment.

Q: Will students have access to Gifted & Talented (GT) services and their GT teacher in the Virtual Academy? In the non-Virtual Academy version?

A: In the Virtual Academy, students will be scheduled for GT services that will be delivered synchronously (live sessions) and asynchronously (recorded sessions). In Levels 1, 2, and 3, GT services will be scheduled and delivered through distance learning mode (synchronously and asynchronously) for all GT students. In Levels 4 & 5, GT services will be provided in-person or on-site.

Q: When will teacher assignments for elementary school be made and be communicated to parents?

A: Teacher assignment notifications will be made the week before school will starts. This year is more complicated with the addition of the Virtual Academy.



Q: I see that the schedule is approximately 8:30-2:30. How much of that time will students actually be on the computer?

A: The amount of time online is the combination of the synchronous and asynchronous sessions would vary by day from 2-3.5 hours. We ask that instructors record all lessons for families that may need to work with their children in the evenings due to their work schedules.

Q: Does my child need to attend scheduled synchronous lessons given by his or her teacher each day?

A: It is the expectation of FPS that students attend all synchronous scheduled sessions. Attending scheduled synchronous sessions provides a pathway for the student and teacher to develop a relationship, for the student to demonstrate content knowledge in a variety of ways, and to provide peer interaction. If a family is having difficulties with having their child attend the scheduled synchronous sessions, please contact your teacher. FPS will work with each family individually to problem solve. Not all synchronous sessions are recorded, but all materials related to the synchronous lesson will be posted for students to access.

Q: When is the last day to register for the FPS Virtual Academy?

A: Virtual Academy Closes at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1.

