

New Albany Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation 2021- 22 Virtual Academy (Grades 6-12) *FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*

What is New Albany Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation (“NAFCS”) Virtual Academy and how does it work?

- We are an online school for students in grades 6-12. We are owned and operated by a public school district, NAFCS. Because we are a part of a public school district, we must follow and are graded by the same rules and standards as all other Indiana schools. Therefore, graduation rate, ECA passing rates, attendance, and credit earning all count and are important factors in our Virtual Academy and district’s grade as assigned by the Indiana Department of Education. Visit our district’s web page for more information about the school district (<https://www.nafcs.k12.in.us/>).

Will enrollment impact whether the Virtual Academy is offered at each grade level?

- Yes, there is threshold number of students needed to enroll for each grade level in order for that grade level to be offered within the Virtual Academy. If the minimum number for enrollment is not met for a particular grade level, NAFCS reserves the right to revoke the option of the Virtual Academy for that grade level. Additionally, NAFCS has a ceiling for enrollment in each grade level. NAFCS reserves the right to discontinue enrollment for a particular grade level that has met its maximum number of enrolled students. .

What is different about the Virtual Academy compared to virtual learning offered throughout the 2020-21 school year?

- During the 2020-21 school year, virtual learning was offered as an option for families within NAFCS as a direct result of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Virtual learning, at that time, was offered to all students without an application process. During the 2020-21 school year, students who participated in virtual learning were able to reintegrate into an in-person learning environment. The Virtual Academy is different from the virtual learning platform in 2020-21 primarily because the Virtual Academy is a NAFCS school of choice. Virtual Academy is an independent school and will not include “piping in” to in-person classrooms, as all Virtual Academy classes will be conducted on a virtual platform. Students who wish to enroll in the Virtual Academy must complete an “Intent to Enroll” form during the specified open enrollment window, which serves as an application for the Virtual Academy. In compliance with state law, Virtual Academy students/parents will be required to participate in annual onboarding processes and orientation, and to follow all engagement and attendance requirements.

What courses will be offered at the NAFCS Virtual Academy?

- The total number of offerings will meet grade level and graduation requirements. Our courses are designed to meet the Indiana Department of Education’s academic standards.

What are the hours of operation for the Virtual Academy?

- The Virtual Academy school day starts at 7:40 and ends at 2:26. Teachers within the Virtual Academy will instruct course offerings during that time.

What will instruction look like in the Virtual Academy?

- Students in the Virtual Academy will work online through a NAFCS issued device with internet access. Students in the Virtual Academy will receive daily live-streamed instruction in math and English/Language Arts to take place during scheduled times. Outside of those scheduled times, students will also complete independent assignments via designated learning platforms such as Google Classroom.

Will my student participate in a hybrid classroom in the Virtual Academy?

- No, we will not be offering a hybrid classroom model (teacher teaching students both in-person and remotely at the same time). All scheduled instruction will take place virtually. Teachers in the Virtual Academy will only be teaching students enrolled in the Virtual Academy, and all live-streamed instruction will be done remotely. Any communication or support from teachers in the Virtual Academy to students outside of the scheduled instruction will take place virtually.

What will a typical day look like?

- Students will receive a schedule from their teachers outlining specific times for live instruction each day. Students receiving RTI reading or math intervention or special education services will receive those services at a scheduled time as well. Outside of these scheduled times for synchronous instruction or services, students may choose their own schedule to complete the four (4) online, asynchronous courses per day.

Is my student required to turn on his camera during live, synchronous sessions?

- Yes. Students will be required to have cameras on and pointed toward their face during live, synchronous sessions with the teacher. The two (2) synchronous classes per day are math and English/Language Arts. Cameras are also required to be on during scheduled services, such as special education services, RTI reading, or math intervention.

What will be the expectation of student attendance and engagement during the operation of school hours?

- While there is some flexibility with the Virtual Academy, we do keep attendance for State reporting, and we do expect students to attend (login) five (5) days per week. State law requires daily attendance from students while school is in session. Virtual Academy students are expected to attend and engage in their live English/Language Arts and math classes during the daily scheduled times. Additionally, students will participate in four (4) online asynchronous courses each day. In compliance with state law, any student attending the Virtual School who accumulates unexcused absences sufficient to be classified as a habitual truant will be required to withdraw from the Virtual School and return to a traditional school within NAFCS. In addition, and in compliance with state law, all Virtual Academy students must meet ongoing student engagement and counseling requirements.

Will my student be able to work at his or her own pace and/or set his or her own schedule?

- Students will have specified hours in which they must be available for synchronous instruction. However, there will be opportunities for students to work at their own pace within the Virtual Academy.

Will my student be allowed to attend the Virtual Academy and Prosser Career Education Center?

- Yes, students will be allow to attend the Virtual Academy and Prosser Career Education Center. However, there is no virtual option at the Prosser Career Education Center. Students must attend in person.

Will my student be required to return to in-person learning if he or she is not successful in the Virtual Academy?

- Students who are struggling in the Virtual Academy may be encouraged to enroll in traditional in-person courses within NAFCS. In addition, students who exceed the State habitual truant statute (10 unexcused absences) may be required to return to a traditional school for their learning. In compliance with state law, any student attending the Virtual School who accumulates unexcused absences sufficient to be classified as a habitual truant will be required to withdraw from the Virtual School and return to a traditional school within NAFCS.

Can my student participate in athletics, extra-curricular, or co-curricular activities?

- At least for the 2020-21 school year, the Virtual Academy is not offering athletics or extra-curricular activities. To participate in those types of activities, a student must be enrolled in five courses at one of the traditional schools in the district. A Virtual Academy student may be able to participate in co-curricular activities including band, orchestra, theatre or choir but in order to do so, students must enroll in a specific class at one of the traditional schools in the district. Schedule conflicts with synchronous Virtual Academy classes may prohibit participation in the traditional school courses required for these co-curricular activities.

Will my student be able to participate in after-school clubs at the Virtual Academy?

- Yes! Students may participate in clubs to the extent such clubs are offered at the Virtual Academy.

May my student attend the Virtual Academy as well as in-person courses at a traditional school within NAFCS?

- Students may be permitted to participate in both traditional and virtual classes if the scheduling of classes is possible.

May my student enroll in dual enrollment courses?

- No, dual credit enrollment options are not offered at the Virtual Academy. Dual enrollment options are only offered at New Albany and Floyd Central High Schools.

Will my student be required to attend mandatory Google meetings?

- Yes. Instruction will include a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning; individual teachers will share expectations for weekly assignments with students, including Google meetings.

May my student earn an Academic Honors diploma as a Virtual Academy student?

- Academic Honors Diploma requirements are the same for all NAFCS students, whether traditional or virtual. For those students enrolled in the Virtual Academy and working toward the Academic Honors Diploma, a specific set of AP and honors courses will be offered.

May my student enroll in Advanced Placement Courses?

- Yes, however there will be a limited number of Advanced Placement courses offered at the Virtual Academy.

Where will my student take required state assessments?

- Students will be required to take these assessments in person at a NAFCS location to be determined.

May my student make enrollment changes (Virtual Academy to traditional or traditional to Virtual Academy)? If so, when?

- Students may request an enrollment change at the end of each semester. However, requests to move from a traditional school to the Virtual Academy will be considered based on enrollment capacity.

If my student is able to make enrollment changes will his or her schedule change?

- Based on the offerings at different schools across the district, schedules are subject to change.

Will one specific platform be used at the Virtual Academy?

- The platform for content delivery will be dependent on the standards of the courses being taught. Virtual school orientation will allow students to master the use of all platforms before the start of graded coursework.

May my student apply to attend the Virtual Academy if he or she is not currently on track to graduate?

- Credit deficient students will be informed of the best options to meet graduation requirements, which may preclude that student from attending Virtual Academy.

Will my student receive a weekly calendar with all important due dates, assignments, and expectations?

- Individual teachers will share weekly assignments with students. Prior to the start of the school year, however, Virtual Academy students will participate in an orientation. Virtual Academy orientation will include strategies for students to learn to organize their work and manage their time to complete all weekly assignments.

Will my student have the opportunity to receive tutoring as a part of Virtual Academy?

- Yes. All teachers will offer virtual office hours during the school day for students who need assistance.

May my student attend summer school?

- Yes. Credit recovery opportunities will be provided for all NAFCS students in the summer. However, such credit recovery opportunities will not be provided online.

What school will my student graduate from and receive his or her diploma?

- There will be an NAFCS Virtual Academy graduation ceremony with diplomas from NAFCS Virtual Academy.

When may my student complete an “Intent to Enroll” application to be a student in the NAFCS 6-12 Virtual Academy for the 2021-22 school year?

- Open Enrollment will take place from **May 17 – June 11, 2021**. Information and the application can be accessed on the NAFCS website at <https://www.nafcs.k12.in.us/>.

What if my student misses the open enrollment dates?

- **June 11, 2021** is the official end of the open enrollment window. If a parent would like to apply after the open enrollment window, a Late Enrollment Request form must be submitted to [list individual and contact information. More information can be obtained by contacting the office of the NAFCS 6-12 Virtual Academy.

May students who reside outside Floyd County apply for enrollment in the Virtual Academy?

- Yes, students outside of Floyd County, Indiana may enroll in the Virtual Academy. However, in accordance with state law, only Indiana residents can be enrolled in the Virtual Academy. If a

student moves out of state, the student is required to and will be withdrawn from the Virtual Academy and NAFCS enrollment.

Does my student have to have internet access to participate in Virtual Academy?

- Students will be required to provide their own internet access. However, students who qualify for free or reduced lunch and do not have internet access may apply for a hotspot. More information on this can be found the District's website.

When will I know if my student has been accepted to Virtual Academy?

- Parents will be contacted via email / phone by Friday, July 9th, 2021.

My student has an IEP. Will he/she be able to apply for Virtual Academy?

- Yes. As a public school, the Virtual Academy welcomes enrollment of students with IEPs. . As part of the application process, it is appropriate for the student's Case Conference Committee to convene to discuss whether and/or how the student's educational needs can be met with a virtual service platform that is the Virtual Academy's approach.

How will the Virtual Academy provide accommodations for students who have an IEP, 504 Plan, or receive another similar kind of service?

- If a student with an IEP or 504 plan is enrolled in NAFCS Virtual Academy, it is the responsibility of NAFCS to ensure the school system meets all requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 along with all applicable state law.

If I am unable to get a reliable internet connection at my home due to the location, may my student be enrolled in Virtual Academy?

- Yes, however, the parent will have to find a location with a reliable connection for the student to complete and submit work as well as participate in live instruction. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch and do not have internet access may apply for a hotspot.

If my student is accepted and enrolled in Virtual Academy, and I decide I want them to attend traditional school, can I change my mind?

- As a school of choice, we are asking parents to make a school year-long commitment, supporting educational continuity and consistency for the student. Changes will only be considered at the end of the first semester.

What are the meal options for Virtual Academy students?

- Students wishing to receive meals will be able to pick them up from a designated location at specific times and days during each week.

How will students get their educational materials?

- The Virtual Academy will coordinate with NAFCS traditional schools to schedule specific times and dates for students to pick up materials for each quarter or semester.

Will Virtual Academy students ever be required to report to an NAFCS location for any reason?

- Students will be required to take state-mandated assessments in a physical brick and mortar setting. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in advance.

If enrolled in Virtual Academy, can my student remain enrolled and participate if we move out

of Floyd County?

- Yes, as long as the student remains a resident of Indiana.

If the NAFCS device (laptop) is broken, may my student use a personal device?

- Students must use the NAFCS issued device to access the resources needed for optimal instruction. The district-issued device allows NAFCS to properly manage software licensing and maintenance, implement proper filtering and security measures, provide access for classroom software, and technology support as needed.

What security features are in place on the school computers? Will there be security issues connecting the school laptop to my home network?

- The Chromebook uses the Google Chrome SOS software to connect to NAFCS applications, Chrome browsing, and Google Classroom resources over the Internet. Once the student logs into the device and connects to the Internet via home WiFi, they are able to access online educational resources. All network traffic is filtered through our district content filters and management tools automatically.

How will parents and guardians be kept informed of their child's progress in Virtual Academy coursework?

- As in the traditional setting, student grades will be entered into PowerSchool. Parents and students will have the ability to access student progress at any time through this platform.

What does my student do if he or she has issues with my NAFCS device (laptop)?

- Virtual support will be available to help troubleshoot any common technology problems. Students will be able to create a technology work order for more extensive needs. Contact NAFCS technology helpline at 812-542-4700, option #1.