



Berrien Springs Virtual Academy

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BerrienSpringsVirtualAcademy.com

Terms and Conditions of Enrollment in the Secondary Berrien Springs Virtual Academy

The Berrien Springs Virtual Academy program operates under a special permission from the State of Michigan called a "Seat Time Waiver" - which means that a student does not have to be sitting in a seat in order to be considered "present." The Virtual Academy also operates under specific laws called 5-O-D. macae.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/5-o-d.pdf

Q: What does it take to be a student at the Virtual Academy?

The Virtual Academy, following the guidelines of 5-O-D legislation ("A district may deny enrollment if the pupil does not possess the prerequisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the online course or is not proficient in the subject area."), has the following requirements for entering the program:

The Berrien Springs Virtual Academy will use the NWEA MAP Growth test to determine whether or not a student possesses the prerequisite knowledge to be successful in the requested courses. Students must meet the following criteria: he/she must test at no more than two grade levels below in both reading and mathematics. **If families feel that their student could do better on placement testing, they may request to redo one part or all of the tests.

For example: A ninth grader wishes to enroll and tests at 220 in Math (below the 7th grade average). This student is not admitted. However, if he/she scores 223+ 7th grade - he/she WOULD be admitted and also given a Math remediation course. The same student also tests in Reading and scores a 220 in reading. This student is considered on grade level in reading.

Q: How much time does a parent commit with a Secondary Student? A: Depends on the student.

In 6th - 8th grade, Virtual Academy students are required to take 4 core classes 3 additional electives. Parents need to stay involved enough to ensure that their child is completing work as well as understanding the work. If parents reach a point with the content that becomes too difficult, the families may reach out to the staff for assistance.

During high school, students are required to take 8 courses. Often a parent's role shifts to "project manager" in that they are monitoring progress and checking in. Often it is the parent's role to listen as a student reads a paper out-loud or help a student study for a test - much like a traditional school. It would be unusual for a parent to be "teaching" the high school student, although this does happen

occasionally.

Q: What technology skills do students and parents need to have in order to be successful in the program?

A: Email, cell phones (take pictures of work and send to teacher via email), uploading files, navigating websites. Email, picture taking, and website navigation are must-knows in order to be successful. The Virtual Academy will give each parent a “test” prior to enrollment to verify that parents can successfully complete necessary tasks. The Virtual Academy will also offer initial and ongoing training on the learning management system.

Q: I have been accepted, what is expected now? A: Continued academic growth!

Secondary students will work consistently in the curriculum provided by the Virtual Academy. Students and families will receive regular feedback from the mentor in the form of graded assignments/projects as well as snapshots of progress over time. Low students may also be given additional work in Reading and in Math and are required to complete it. Secondary students are required to stay on track for graduation - passing the required courses each semester.

All students will take the NWEA MAP growth test in the Fall and Spring. In order to *maintain* enrollment status in the program, students must show growth over the school year. Students who fail the majority of courses *and* who flatline or decrease NWEA score over the course of year will not be permitted to continue into the next school year. Recommendation for enrollment into a traditional school will be provided in writing to families at the conclusion of the school year.

Q: Why is the school so strict about this? A: We want what is best for students.

Given the freedom in our program, we acknowledge that the freedom and independence can be a positive as well as a negative. While we know that for some, this style of education is extremely successful, for others it is not. We cannot waste time in a child’s education who fails to make growth year after year. It is our responsibility to recommend other educational options if a student does reach annual academic growth goals.

I _____ understand the prerequisites and continual expectations of the Virtual Academy. Together with my student, _____, we agree to these terms and conditions.

Parent Signature/Date

Student Signature/Date