

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grant Parish School Students:

The upcoming school year will present us with challenges that we have never faced before. With over 800 students choosing to attend school virtually, education in Grant Parish will look very different from before. I am asking you to be patient with us as we learn together this year. There is the possibility that all students may be virtual at some point.

I believe that our students deserve the best from the Grant Parish School system, and we intend to provide a top quality education to all of our students. In order to accomplish that, we will need your continued support throughout this 2020-2021 school year.

Virtual learning is many different things. You and your child will determine the best schedule to complete the work by the scheduled due date. Students will not log on at any particular time unless a meeting is arranged by the teacher, but daily log-ons Monday-Friday are encouraged in order for children to stay abreast of assignments. Virtual Learning may include videos of lessons from teachers, videos from different sources, lesson plans, worksheets, workbooks, phone calls, video meetings (where possible), virtual testing, etc. Virtual Learning may vary from school to school, grade level to grade level, class to class, and subject to subject based on the number of virtual learning participants so it is extremely important that you maintain communication with your child's school.

Things parents will need to do to support successful learning:

- Determine the person in your home who will be the learning coach
- Plan a time to devote to school work
- Have a quiet space for the student to work
- Work with your child one on one
- Let the child explore and sometimes struggle
- Communicate with the virtual teacher(s)
- Meet the school attendance requirement
- Check to make sure assignments are completed by deadline

We want to thank you for being an active participant in your child's education, and we also look forward to working with you in order to ensure that your child is successful while participating in virtual learning.

Sincerely,

Paxton Teddlie
Superintendent

Grant Parish School Board Virtual Learning Guidance

Virtual Learning: While we believe that learning occurs best in a classroom setting, we also realize that some families' situations may warrant options for alternative education.

This document is to provide general guidance and information concerning the structure of the virtual learning option.

- I understand that my child will have to sign in daily through Google Classroom to be counted in attendance for the school day.
- I understand that all assignments will need to be completed by the assigned deadlines and failure to complete assignments may result in earning a failing grade for the class.
- I understand that all technology received from the district must be returned in the state it was issued or I will be liable for all replacement costs.
- I understand that all technology received from the district will be monitored and must be in accordance with the district's technology use policy.

Is there a cost to attend?

There is no cost to attend Grant Parish virtual school.

How do I apply?

Paper applications will be available at each school.

What if I don't have a device?

Grant Parish School Board will, to the extent possible, provide a device for student use while enrolled in Grant Parish virtual school. Parents will be provided a scheduled time to pick up devices and to sign a technology agreement. The student will also be required to sign the technology agreement and code of conduct.

What if something happens to the device provided by GPSB?

Parents/Guardians have the option of purchasing an insurance plan for devices. Detailed information will be available in the Technology Loan Agreement. Parents/Guardians who do not opt to purchase insurance would be responsible for all replacement costs. Full Loaner Agreement will be available when checking out devices.

What if I don't have internet access?

Grant Parish School Board and the Louisiana Department of Education are working together to provide internet access to families. To the best of our ability, we will work with your family to ensure connectivity. If these measures are not successful, we will work with your family to make sure students have access to lessons, materials, and teachers through alternative means such as a laptop with lessons downloaded and paper packets.

What will virtual lessons be like?

Lessons will be provided for students through Google Classroom. Students may also utilize instructional resources that align with the curriculum. Students in grades 7-12 may have a combination of Google Classroom and online programs. All assignments will be considered mandatory and count toward the student's grades.

Students are expected to attend courses on a regular basis, engage with the classroom tools, communicate with the teacher, and complete assignments.

What if my child receives special education services?

All services listed in your child's IEP will continue. Services may look different depending on whether they are provided in person or virtually.

Are there attendance requirements?

Yes. Students will have to check in on a daily basis via google classroom. Also there will be check in by the teacher of record. Students are expected to log-on to Google Classroom on a regular basis. Due to the nature of virtual learning experiences, there will not be a requirement that students be logged-on during a specific time, but they will need to log on daily. Teachers will schedule virtual meetings that may be during regular school hours. Students and/or parents may also request virtual meetings with the teacher.

It is the responsibility of the student and parent to communicate any absences and/or technology issues that prevent the student from logging-on daily. Teachers will notify the school administrator after 3 consecutive days of inactivity.

Can students still participate in sports?

All virtual students would be eligible for athletic participation if the LHSAA allows schools to have contests. The athletes would still have to meet all eligibility requirements which may include certain participation/completion percentages on the virtual lessons and grade point averages. Students should contact their school for more information such as the times they will be allowed on campus for practice and the protocols that will be administered (ie-temperature checks, etc). If the LHSAA puts out other information, we will post it on our website.

Will I still receive meals for my Grant Parish student?

Students that are virtual will be able to pick up shelf-stable meals weekly. Delivery of meals is not an option at this time.

What if I apply and then would like to change?

Due to the guidelines for Phase 2, schools are limited to group sizes of 25, including the teacher. Parents may request to return to face-to-face instruction by August 21st. Requests will be considered and approved based upon current Phase guidelines. Students will continue receiving instruction through virtual until approved. After August 21st, if a student has not opted to return to school, students will remain in the virtual classroom until the end of the semester.