



What Is a Virtual School Student?

Online learning provides many benefits for students and caretakers that may not exist in a traditional school setting. However, successful online learning requires more responsibility for both the student and caretaker than in a traditional learning environment.

Student Role in Traditional and Online School

Students in a traditional school and students in an online school:

- Complete daily assignments.
- Attend classes regularly and on time.
- Must be prepared for classes with all necessary supplies.
- Interact and communicate with teachers.



Student Responsibilities in the Online School Environment



Communication

Students communicate with teachers and school staff often. Although your student's teacher(s) will communicate with periodic phone calls, WebMail, and LiveLesson® sessions, you or your student will need to contact the teacher if you need help.

Students:

- Read daily WebMail communications and respond to messages, as needed.
- Speak to teachers and school staff by phone and return calls promptly.
- Read announcements on the student home page and on the Schoolhouse and section message boards.
- Attend required LiveLesson® sessions and set an alarm to be on time.
- Ask their Learning Coach or teacher when a lesson concept is confusing.



Schedule

Learning Coaches and their students discuss daily lesson requirements and other activity commitments to create a schedule that allows time for personal activity but also ensures that all lessons are completed each day.

Students:

- Create a plan alongside their Learning Coaches to ensure all daily lessons are completed.
- Abide by the schedule by completing lessons on time or the day they are scheduled.
- If necessary, create a catch-up plan to ensure all overdue lessons are completed.





Attendance

Meet school attendance requirements and complete all daily lessons.

- Complete daily lessons as assigned on the Student Planner. (Attendance is determined by measuring the number of lessons completed.)
- Attend required LiveLesson® sessions and are encouraged to attend optional sessions. During these sessions, the teacher interacts with students and provides virtual instruction to help support students on specific topics within a course. Students also have the opportunity to ask questions as well as collaborate with teachers and other students to help them learn specific content.



Daily Lessons and Comprehension

Students need to complete their assigned lessons each day. Online courses are similar to traditional classroom courses: there are specific lesson activities that must be completed by the end of the day. In fact, online courses require similar time and energy as traditional courses. With online school, your student has the flexibility to pace the lesson to their learning needs and start lessons anytime of day. However, students are expected to have each day's assigned lessons complete by the end of the day. If any lessons become overdue, students are also expected to make a plan to catch up.

Elementary (grades K–5) students:

- Complete lessons in their own online classroom account with the guidance of their Learning Coach.



Middle school (grades 6–8) students:

- Work independently as much as possible. Depending on the student, Learning Coaches may guide their students through parts or all of the lessons to focus attention and provide assistance.
- Contact teachers for help (with encouragement from the Learning Coach) if there are lesson concepts they don't understand.



High school (grades 9–12) students:

- Work independently most of the time. In some circumstances, Learning Coaches may guide their students through parts or all of the lessons to focus attention and provide assistance.
- Contact teachers for help if there are lesson concepts they don't understand.

All students:

- Mark lessons “complete” when all learning activities and assessments are complete.
- Review feedback in the Grade Book with the guidance of a Learning Coach.



Traits of a Successful Online Student

Acquiring these skills and traits will help your student be a successful virtual school student and set them on the path to becoming an independent learner.

Skills

- Basic computer skills:
 - » using a keyboard and mouse
 - » logging in to the online classroom
 - » navigating to other websites
 - » using a microphone and a web camera
 - » opening and creating documents
 - » saving documents in organized file folders
- Time management skills:
 - » planning time for lesson completion and other activities
 - » deciding lesson and activity order
 - » creating a schedule and revising as needed

Traits

- Self-direction: finding the strength to complete a task without giving up or needing external motivators to persist in the task
- Self-advocacy:
 - » speaking up whenever they struggle with something
 - » knowing their strengths and weaknesses
 - » getting the help needed to succeed
- Effective as an independent learner (high school students and sometimes middle school students):
 - » appropriately completing coursework without supervision
 - » being aware that the responsibility has now shifted to them
 - » taking charge of the educational experience

