

# OCEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY

2020-2021  
Learning Plan Overview



# OCEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

501 Atlantic Avenue  
Ocean City, NJ  
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## Ocean City School District Virtual Academy Overview

### **Overview:**

The Ocean City Virtual Learning Academy relies on a collaborative effort to promote the success of each learner. Due to the nature of this program, it will be significantly different than the experience of a student participating in our hybrid instructional program.

### **Goal of the Virtual Academy:**

While we strongly believe that face-to-face learning and connection is most beneficial for the vast majority of students, we have streamlined our process and dedicated time to ensuring that the virtual learning experience will be successful for students and families who choose the all virtual learning experience. The goal of the academy program is for students to complete grade level expectations and achieve standard mastery at the pacing set forth by the New Jersey Department of Education.

### **Contact information:**

#### **Building Support**

Primary School: Dr. Cathleen Smith

609 399 3191

Intermediate School: Mr. Michael Mattina

609 399 5611

High School: Dr. Matthew Jamison

609 399 1290

#### **District Support**

Director of Academic Services: Mr. Curt Nath

Director of Student Services: Mr. Matthew Carey

Curriculum Director: Dr. Lauren Gunther

### **Eligibility:**

All students are eligible to enroll in the Ocean City Virtual Academy. It is not necessary for any family or guardian to demonstrate a risk of illness or other selective criteria. Anyone choosing to enroll in this program must complete the application located on our website.

### **Scope and Expectations:**

Any students voluntarily participating in the Ocean City Virtual Academy will be afforded the same quality and scope of instruction and other educational services as any other student participating in the District's hybrid program. This includes access to standards-based instruction of the same quality and rigor as that afforded all other students of the District, the District making its best effort to ensure that every student participating in remote learning has access to the requisite educational technology (see below), and the provision of special education and related services to the greatest extent possible. Like in-person and hybrid programs, full time remote learning must adhere to length of school day requirements pursuant N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3, local attendance policies, and any other local policies governing delivery of services to, and District expectations of students participating in remote programs.

### **Reporting:**

To evaluate full time remote learning, and to continue providing meaningful guidance, it will be important for the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to understand the extent and nature of demand for full time remote learning around the State. Therefore, the Ocean City School District will be required to report data regarding participation in full time remote learning to the NJDOE . Data will include the number of students participating in full time remote learning by each of the following subgroups: economically disadvantaged; major racial and ethnic groups; students with disabilities; and English learners.

### **Communication:**

The District will communicate all policies and expectations with our parents, families, and students. The District will utilize our webpage ([www.oceancityschools.org](http://www.oceancityschools.org)), our social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) and our mass communication system (Swift K-12) to communicate with our community.

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

#### **Curriculum Expectations**

The virtual curriculum will strictly align with the OCS D curriculum, for all content areas. Per definition the curriculum allows educators a framework for *WHAT* to teach; not *HOW* it is going to be taught.

The OCS D curriculum and pacing documents guide instruction by identifying what students should know, and are able to do within each content area and/or grade level. The curriculum is developed by first understanding the state standards. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards are guidelines that ensure consistency across the state for each content area and grade level. Teachers receive training on how to analyze and implement the expectations of these standards.

What will the curriculum look like when students are learning in a remote environment?

The curriculum, or the roadmap to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, doesn't change based on the modality of instruction. For example, NJSLS 4th grade math standard 4.OA indicates the following: *Students will Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.* This would remain a learning target for all 4th graders regardless of whether students are learning online or in person. Students will receive instruction on this concept and are expected to develop mastery of this concept through skill based assessment.

During the emergency school closure and our spring shift to full remote learning, the work of the teacher and administrator articulation identifies potential standard deficiencies and the most important anchor standards as decisions are made on curriculum resources and standard pacing. By doing this, teachers can focus on the critical skills needed for the grade level/course to ensure that students are able to achieve the State Standards and progress to the next course/grade successfully.

### **Supports for Special Education or Students with a 504 Plan**

The provision of special education and accommodations for students who have individualized education programs (IEPs) or Section 504 plans will be determined by each respective IEP or Section 504 team meetings. In some cases, the District must determine if an IEP meeting or an amendment to a student's IEP is needed for full time remote learning.

General Education and Special Education teachers are expected to provide accommodations, to the extent possible/appropriate, based on individual student plans. Special education teachers and general education teachers are expected to collaborate to ensure access to the content for students with disabilities. Special Education staff, including special education teachers, GATE assigned teachers, and 504 case managers, will be available to provide direct support to students and their families. Special education case managers will be in touch directly with the students on their caseloads and their families.

During this time, related services will be provided via virtual methods and families of those students will be contacted regarding those procedures.

Please reach out to your child's case manager with any questions you have during this time.

### **Parent Role**

The role of the parent, or academic coach, is to provide organization and structure, to help create a proper learning environment, and to promote continuity in the learning process. Parents also act as learning companions, facilitators, and advocates for their child. They help build and sustain a positive relationship with the school, and work closely with teachers to ensure a successful learning experience.

Parents contribute to their child's learning experience by being present and available as much as possible, showing an interest, asking questions, and communicating frequently with teachers. Being

your child’s academic coach may include things like providing additional learning materials, exploring concepts together, reviewing and proofreading assignments, reading out loud, helping them learn to plan, and expressing encouragement.

Primary School	Intermediate School	High School
<p>During the primary school years, parents play an especially active role in planning and delivering the curriculum in partnership with our teachers. Parents work with teachers to develop and nurture the student’s education plan and curriculum. Parents are encouraged to work with their child to create a schedule for completing assignments that works in tandem with their learning style.</p>	<p>As our students transition to intermediate school, their parents begin to play a more supervisory role. They ensure that their child is managing his or her time properly, and is on task with assignments. Parents work with their child and his or her teachers to create a schedule that accommodates classes and an increased amount of coursework.</p>	<p>In high school, parents take on the role of supervisor, academic coach, and mentor. Teachers stay in frequent contact with both students and parents, responding to them through email or phone. Being participative through Powerschool and the grade book is an excellent way for parents to view information about their child’s academic work.</p>

**Student Role**

The Ocean City School District acknowledges the specific role that students play in their own education at each stage of child development. We encourage students to be active members of their learning team, along with their parents and teachers. Students’ educational responsibility increases gradually as they progress through each grade level.

Primary School	Intermediate School	High School
<p>Parents play a vital role during the elementary school years, but ultimately, students are responsible for demonstrating that they understand the material. Students work with their parents and teachers to progress through the curriculum at their own pace. When they have questions, teachers are available to help clarify concepts and expand a child’s understanding of the lesson.</p>	<p>During middle school, the student takes on more responsibility for their academic success. In these grades, students complete assignments with a higher level of self-sufficiency and can enjoy a more balanced educational experience by incorporating their own interests into project based learning.</p>	<p>High school years require the highest level of academic responsibility for students. By developing a well-defined set of academic priorities, our high school students become accountable for taking notes, refining study skills, and meeting deadlines for assignments.</p>

### **Academic Integrity:**

The Ocean City Virtual Academy promotes three basic principles: respect, responsibility and integrity. Each student is expected to demonstrate these principles in his/her academic work. Academic misconduct is a denial of these three principles in that it is evidence of lack of respect for self and others, lack of individual responsibility, and lack of personal integrity.

### **Instructional Schedules & Delivery**

Virtual learning will follow the same structure and schedule as in-person instruction, but in a remote environment. Classes and teachers will be scheduled within the school's normal operating day (class period structure) and teacher and class placement will be based on student enrollment.

Students voluntarily choosing to enroll in the Virtual Academy will be held to the same standards and expectations as in-person instruction. Participation attendance will be recorded, assessments will be administered, and grades will be awarded which will count toward the child's cumulative grade average. Classes will consist of a mix of synchronous and asynchronous instruction and activities.

### **Technology**

Powerschool will be the district's platform for remote and virtual learning. Class pages can be accessed by going to [classroom.powerschool.com](https://classroom.powerschool.com). This will be the location for all communication with students enrolled in the Virtual Academy.

In order to engage in a virtual program, students will need to have an appropriate device and a reliable home internet connection. Xfinity has previously provided free WiFi for everyone. Xfinity WiFi hotspots across the country were available to those in need for free, including non-Xfinity customers. The District cannot guarantee that this will continue to be available. The District would like to share that Xfinity is offering two months of free service for qualified new customers (<https://www.internetessentials.com/>).

For students that are in need of a device to engage in remote learning, parents will be asked to complete an online form request in order to borrow a district-owned Chromebook. That form will be available on the District's website as we get closer to the start of the school year. The District will reach out to those parents to provide times and a location when they can sign out and take home a Chromebook that will provide them access to PowerSchool to complete assignments. Please know that the home will have to be equipped with wireless internet access in order to utilize the Chromebook. Parents/guardians assume any responsibility for the Chromebook, including remuneration for lost or damaged devices. Devices are only to be used by students and only as necessary to complete school assignments.

We also understand that issues can arise. Should assistance be needed, please contact the Ocean City School District's Technology Help Desk by emailing questions or issues to [help@ocsdnjathome.on.spiceworks.com](mailto:help@ocsdnjathome.on.spiceworks.com). This will generate a ticket in our system and one of our

support team members will respond as quickly as possible. Please make sure that you include the student's name or ID number, your email address, and your phone number in all messages. If you are unable to reach us by email, you can call and leave a message at (609) 399-1290 ext. 1234.

### **Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities**

Voluntary participation in the Ocean City School District's Virtual Academy allows enrolled students to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

### **Timelines**

Voluntary enrollment in the Ocean City Virtual Academy will require participation until the end of the first trimester (Primary School) or first semester (Intermediate and High School). At that time, the necessity of this program will be revisited. Any request to transition back to in-person instruction will be determined by current guidelines. Should a family or student experience a life altering event that necessitates a request to transition between our hybrid and full-time programs, please contact the child's school for more information and guidance.