



Berrien Springs Virtual Academy

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BerrienSpringsVirtualAcademy.com

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

Q: Does my child have to be on grade level to be a student at the Virtual Academy?

The Virtual Academy, following the guidelines of 5-O-D legislation, ******(From 5-O-D) “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.”

Therefore, the Virtual Academy 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 may enroll. Students must meet the following criteria: he/she must test at no more than one grade level below in both reading and mathematics. One grade level below is equivalent to the 30th percentile in the present grade. ******

For example: A third grader wishes to enroll and tests at 183 in Math. A 183 is considered “proficient” for 2nd grade and is the 31st percentile for third grade. This student would take 2nd grade Math because they are behind, but would not be denied enrollment. The same student also tests in Reading and scores a 167. A 167 is considered proficient for 1st grade (2 grade levels behind). This student is now denied enrollment based on the reading test score. The student is recommended in writing to attend school in a traditional setting.

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.” Our elementary program is quite new and is one of just a few in the State of Michigan who have been given permission to educate elementary students.

macae.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/5-o-d.pdf

Q: How much time does a parent commit with an Elementary Student?

A: In the elementary program, the PARENT is the primary provider of instruction. This program is “parent-centric” - the parent is the primary instructor. The computer will not do it, the mentor does not do it, the child is not “studying independently.” The parent must be fully committed to working 3-5 hours daily beside their child for the purpose of education.

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

A: Gmail, cell phones (take pictures of work and send to teacher via email), uploading files, navigating websites. As the primary teacher for his/her child, parents in the elementary program must be competent with computers as well as cell phones. 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!

Elementary 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.

Elementary students will take the NWEA MAP growth test in the Fall as well as the Spring. In order to *maintain* enrollment status in the elementary program, students must show growth over the school year. Students who do not complete courses, who consistently submit poor quality work and/or incomplete work, and who flatline or decrease 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 children.

Given the freedom in our program, we acknowledge that we have very little control over the quality or quantity of instruction being provided to the child. 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 duty 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