

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOLS



Virtual Academy Handbook 2025-2026

Revised 10/2025

WELCOME

Recognizing that students learn in a myriad of ways, Morgan County Schools promotes the education of each student through the innovation of online learning, equipping students with the knowledge to achieve personal and professional success in becoming college and career ready. Morgan County parents may feel more comfortable with a full-time virtual model available through the public school system. This would allow the student the opportunity to learn in an environment more conducive to the family's situation. Morgan County students will be given access to Edmentum's EdOptions Academy for virtual learning.

The Morgan County Virtual Academy offers students numerous benefits in terms of time, flexibility, and program customization. Along with these advantages, students also assume increased responsibility in time management, organization, self-direction, and self-regulation. The program offers a full online learning option for students in grades K - 12. These courses are taught by Edmentum's West Virginia certified teachers who have developed the courses in alignment with the WV College & Career Readiness Standards.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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STUDENTS:

Profile:

Morgan County Virtual Academy will serve students with diverse backgrounds, including:

- Students who are full-time virtual school learners and complete all coursework online at home.
- Students who are taking courses at home and James Rumsey Technical Institute or Blue Ridge Community and Technical College.

The student's role in virtual school is to learn to the best of his/her ability. Therefore, students should expect to take age-appropriate individual responsibility for their own learning, such as applying themselves to their studies in a focused and serious manner, working hard, becoming engaged in the lessons and activities, asking questions, exploring their personal interests, improving areas of academic weaknesses, and capitalizing on strengths—and at all times completing their own work and upholding the principles of the academic integrity policy.

Eligibility and Requirements:

Students who have applied for the Morgan County Virtual Academy and are found eligible may participate in the virtual education program. Students must:

- Be enrolled in Morgan County Schools as a **full-time student**.
- For initial enrollment, provide proof of being at or above grade level, which may include scoring at mastery or above on the most-recent annual assessment and/or maintaining an overall 3.0 GPA. Administrative consideration will be given for special circumstances.
- For students with IEP, 504, or LEP plans, the team will be required to meet and determine the appropriateness of virtual school, accommodations, and services.
- Apply by June 1 for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Meet enrollment requirements regarding health services such as physicals, dental exams and immunizations.
- Be enrolled in courses to meet Morgan County School graduation requirements.
- Successfully complete a district defined virtual education orientation session.
- Meet district and/or state enrollment requirements for the course(s) in question including successful completion of any prerequisite courses.
- Maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale in virtual courses.
- Have access to consistent, daily Internet service.
- Maintain regular communication with the school.
- Remain enrolled for a full academic semester (although a full year is preferred).

Attendance:

Regular school attendance is an important component of academic success. Because Morgan County Virtual Academy participants will not fall under regular brick and mortar attendance regulations, students participating in MCVA will be considered in attendance if they are successfully progressing in their courses. Successful progression means interacting regularly with the teacher(s), participating in live lessons when necessary, completing assignments on time, and maintaining a 2.0 GPA each semester.

Once enrolled in MCVA, students are on a probationary period for 14 days. If any student has not begun coursework within 14 days of the first day of class, a SAT meeting will be scheduled. Students will be considered truant for failure to meet virtual attendance requirements and will be required to meet with school administration and/or the attendance director and prosecuting attorney through a multi-disciplinary team meeting.

Extracurricular Activities:

MCVA students enrolled full-time are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in the school in which they are enrolled according to attendance zone.

Students must meet the same extracurricular activity eligibility requirements as students enrolled in the traditional day program including any applicable WVSSAC requirements. Student residency for purposes of participating in extracurricular activities will be determined in accordance with applicable Morgan County Schools' policies and WVSSAC policies, www.wvssac.org/rules-and-regulations/.

While participating in an extracurricular activity, virtual school students are held to the school's code of conduct and disciplinary procedures. If a student's conduct is determined to have been in violation of the code of conduct, a principal can assign appropriate consequences, and students will be required to adhere to those consequences. Failure to comply may result in loss of privileges including potential removal from the Morgan County Virtual Academy.

Support:

Students participating in the Morgan County Virtual Academy will receive at least the following supports:

- IEP committees will meet to determine the most appropriate least restrictive environment and the most reasonable accommodations.
- LEP/504 committees will meet to determine the most reasonable accommodations.
- Counselors and social workers will assist with academic, career, and social needs as they arise. In conjunction with school counselors, students will be assisted with developing an educational plan based on transcripts, standardized assessments, career interests, and other pertinent data. The plan will be reviewed periodically to assess its appropriateness and progress toward completion.

Assessment:

All Morgan County Virtual Academy students will participate in all state testing requirements, year-end assessments, and accountability requirements. Students will not be permitted to enroll in virtual school the following school year if they fail to do so.

Behavior:

All students whether at their local school or virtual school must abide by the Expected Behaviors in Safe and Supportive schools WVDE Board of Education Policy 4373.

Computer Network, Internet, and Device:

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in any other aspect of school life. The network is provided as a privilege for students to conduct research, complete classroom tasks or communicate with others. Students are responsible for their behavior and their communication with others. Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. The school reserves the right to review files and communications without prior notice to maintain system integrity and ensure students are utilizing the network appropriately.

Failure to comply with county and school rules may result in loss of network access, disciplinary action by the school administration, and referral to law enforcement agencies.

Academic Integrity

A student's work represents his or her own thoughts and ideas. It also means that students do not share work with other students, and they do not assist others with the course after they have finished. MCVA will not tolerate misconduct of any type, including but not limited to:

- Cheating: copying work or homework or lending the same to another student to be copied or intentionally helping another student to perform any act of academic misconduct.
- Communicating in any way with other students during a test, midterm, or final.
- Plagiarism: taking ideas or writings knowingly from another person or source.
- Unauthorized use of electronics or any technology to assist in taking tests or quizzes.

Transition Back to Traditional Learning:

Students may withdraw from MCVA within 14 days of the start of the semester without grade penalty. After the 14-day grace period, a W/F will be issued. Students will no longer be eligible to participate in the Morgan County Virtual Academy and will be transitioned back to traditional day school.

Removal:

Students may be transitioned back to a traditional school program or removed from the virtual program for the following reasons:

- The student has not maintained a 2.0 grade point average.
- The student has not maintained regular communication with the school.
- The student has not made adequate progression through coursework comparable to traditional course standards or has failed a core class.
- The student has cheated, falsified information, or plagiarized.
- The student has violated school policies, procedures, rules, or regulations, including rules governing the use of technology.



Programmatic Level Considerations:

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS (GRADES K-5)

Virtual School at the elementary level is often a new concept for many. It is important to remember virtual schooling for young learners is not a substitution for in-person, classroom-based learning. The social-emotional, as well as academic, engagement that occurs daily during traditional schooling is difficult to replicate within the virtual model for young learners. The role of family engagement in the provision of virtual learning opportunities for students should be considered as critical to help ensure all young learners are successful. It is necessary for the parent to have conversations about the subjects students are learning every day. Parents need to help their children by monitoring their completion of assignments. Students may be retained if they have failing grades or demonstrate inadequate progress.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS (GRADES 6-8)

Middle school students must pass four core courses (ELA, math, social studies, and science) to be promoted to the next grade level. According to WVDE Policy 2510, middle school students are also required to take a wellness course (PE/Health), art, and music as assigned by the school administrator.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (GRADES 9-12)

High School students are expected to earn at least six credits each year; however, seniors on track to graduate must register for a minimum of five courses, which may include college courses as agreed upon by school administration. Students who do not complete a course by the last day of the semester will be issued a grade reflecting the student's current grade and factoring in any missed assignments, tests, or other work products.

Upon satisfying all Morgan County School graduation requirements, students enrolled in the Morgan County Virtual Academy will receive a high school diploma from their local school.

Any virtual program course taken for high school credit, regardless of the grade in which the course was taken, will be entered onto the student transcript and calculated in the student's Grade Point Average (GPA).

Students attending James Rumsey Technical Institute or Blue Ridge Community and Technical College must abide by the requirements of their programs and follow all rules/procedures regarding attendance.

FAMILIES:

Responsibilities

Students and parents should spend the first days of school making sure they are comfortable with online learning and capable of mastering the content. Families are responsible for maintaining reliable, daily access to internet. Computer and internet problems will not be accepted as a reason for delays in meeting deadlines. Only through continuous communication and consistent work can students be successful in a virtual course. It is essential that students maintain regular contact with their teachers and submit assignments on time. Transportation to and from school for support, meetings, and assessments will be the family's responsibility (except in the case of transport from BSHS to JRTI).

Contact Information

Keeping contact information up to date is essential for the schools to be able to communicate quickly and reliably with families. The school sends materials to students including report cards, test scores, and sometimes letters to families' home addresses. Therefore, it is extremely important that the school has the most current address on file at the main office. If an address, telephone number, or email address change, it is imperative to notify the school of these changes as soon as possible.

How to Succeed in Virtual Learning Scenarios:

Attend to your child's health and well-being. Ensure that your child remains mentally and physically healthy while addressing any concerns they may have. School counselors and social workers are available to children who are part of the Morgan County Virtual Academy if needed.

Set up a designated remote learning space at home. Children will learn better in a space free from distractions and clutter. In an ideal world, this space will not be the same as where they spend free time. If families don't have the ability to create a separate learning space, it is encouraged that they try to make existing spaces as conducive to learning opportunities as possible.

Establish rules and routines for learning time. Children will be more successful with virtual learning when basic routines are developed to indicate designated times for school work versus free time. Similarly, it is important to schedule breaks throughout the day to reduce screen time and to ensure that your children are not consumed by learning to the detriment of recreation and relaxation.

DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED AND TITLE IX GUIDELINES:

As required by federal laws and regulations, West Virginia does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, disability, marital status, age or national origin in its employment practices or in the administration of any of its education program and activities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q. What platform will be used for virtual school?

All Morgan County Virtual Academy students will be enrolled in their home schools but will have their coursework delivered through Edmentum's EdOptions Academy platform. Classes will be taught by Edmentum's virtual teachers using the West Virginia Department of Education standards.

Q. What is the daily schedule?

Daily schedules for courses will be flexible and set by your child's EdOptions Academy instructor.

Q. How much time do students work online each day?

The time spent online each day will vary by what is appropriate for student age.

Q. Can virtual school students participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes. Virtual school students are treated the same as brick and mortar students with respect to eligibility and participation in extracurricular activities.

Q. Can students with IEPs or 504 plans enroll in virtual school?

A student's IEP or 504 plan must be reviewed to determine whether the necessary accommodations can be provided virtually.

Q. Will virtual school students be required to participated in the general summative assessment?

Yes. Virtual school students will be held to the same testing requirements as brick and mortar students including state testing, end-of-year assessments, and all accountability requirements.

Q. Will students get to engage with one another online?

Yes. There will be opportunities for synchronous (live) class meetings, especially in the elementary grades. Tutoring sessions will also be available.

Q. Are all subjects taught online in middle/secondary?

Elementary students will receive instruction in reading, mathematics, social studies, science, PE/health, art, and music.

Q. Are all subjects taught online in middle/secondary?

Middle and high school students will receive instruction in all courses required by WVDE policy. Some electives will have limited availability.

Q. Can students still attend James Rumsey Technical Institute or Blue Ridge Community and Technical College?

Yes. Morgan County Virtual Academy students can still participate in courses at JRTI and BRCTC.

