



# Frederick County Public Schools

## Blended Virtual Program

*A K-12 Remote Learning Option*

### Overview, Best Practices, Commitment and Acknowledgement

#### About the Blended Virtual Program (BVP)

Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a high quality remote learning experience for kindergarten through twelfth grade students. FCPS teachers, utilizing the FCPS curriculum, instruct students in a remote learning setting that includes regular live *synchronous* and *asynchronous* learning opportunities.

#### Definitions

- **Synchronous learning:** remote learning that happens in real-time with the interaction between the teacher and students and occurs in a virtual classroom setting. This can also include assessments, office hours, meeting with teachers, guided discussions, teacher-led group discussions, etc.
- **Asynchronous learning:** independent learning time that happens apart from synchronous learning. This can include digital platform instruction, pre-recorded video lessons, assigned readings, independent practice, paper/pencil learning activities and posted assignments.

The BVP follows the academic calendar approved by the Board of Education of Frederick County. Students enrolled in the BVP attend live classes daily and have opportunities to participate in most extracurricular activities offered at their home school. At the high school level, BVP students also have opportunities to participate in athletics.

When deciding on whether to enroll your child in the FCPS BVP, parents and students should consider whether or not this is the best educational model for their particular situation. Students who thrive in a remote learning environment demonstrate certain traits and habits. The following are examples of traits that are emerging in our youngest remote learners and are regularly demonstrated by successful middle and high school remote learners:

- Ability to work independently.
- Enjoy reading to learn.
- Commitment to attend classes daily and actively participate.
- Willingness to ask questions.
- Willingness to take advantage of available support.
- Ability to self-reflect.

*\*In addition, it is recommended that students who are in grades k-3 have a highly engaged caregiver.*

#### Blended Virtual Programs

##### High School



BVP high school students are expected to complete the required courses, sequences of courses, and credits in order to graduate as outlined in the **High School Course Planning Guide**. Students must earn the required number of credits in order to be promoted to the next grade. Similar to traditional high schools, if the course enrollment is low, some courses may not be offered in the BVP. High school BVP course options can be reviewed [here](#). Additional course offerings through the Frederick County Virtual School (FCVS) may be utilized to meet student needs. BVP counselors are available to support students in tracking and monitoring course progression and course selections.

## [Middle School](#)



BVP middle school students' schedules include: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and PE/Health. Sixth and seventh graders are scheduled into one year-long elective and two semester-long exploratory classes. Eighth graders will also be scheduled into two elective courses. See the **Middle School Course Guide**. The following electives are NOT offered in the MSBVP: Beginning Band, Band, Orchestra, Music Performance Lab, Theater Arts, Chorus, Technology Exposition, and Pre-Engineering.

Students are grouped in classes utilizing a cluster grouping model and instructed at their ability level, including identified gifted and talented and Highly-Able Learner (HAL) students. Courses are not designated as grade-level or honors. However, all advanced math courses are offered to qualified students.

## [Elementary School](#)



Elementary School students are scheduled to participate in: Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, PE, Music, Art, Media, and SEL (Social/Emotional Learning).

## Students With Disabilities

The BVP may be appropriate for students with an Individualized Learning Program (IEP) or 504 Plan. If a student has an IEP or 504 Plan and their parent/guardian is requesting enrollment in the BVP, the student's home school IEP or 504 team will convene a meeting to discuss the appropriateness of the BVP to meet the student's IEP or 504 goals and objectives. A representative from the BVP will be included in the meeting. The IEP or 504 team will outline and record the necessary accommodations, supplementary aids, and services to support eligible students in the virtual program.

## Student Best Practices and Responsibilities

A successful BVP experience requires collaboration and shared responsibilities among students, educators and families. The following student responsibilities are specific to the BVP and will ensure that students are supported and have the best opportunity to learn and thrive in a remote learning environment.

- Attend and engage in all teacher-led lessons and complete independent learning experiences and assignments.
- Be on time with your computer camera on when prompted, following the provided student schedule.
- Identify a comfortable and quiet space at home where you can focus.
- Complete experiences and assignments provided by the BVP staff and meet deadlines. Show effort, accuracy and persistence in your school work.
- Understand the expectations for grading and attendance and ask for clarification when needed.
- Take responsibility for learning. Set personal goals and be aware of your academic progress. Ask questions and seek assistance from BVP staff.
- Behave in a remote learning environment in a manner consistent with the expectations when in school.
- Build positive relationships with classmates by respecting differences and demonstrating positive digital citizenship skills.
- Practice self-care strategies and seek well-being support from the BVP staff when needed.



## Parent/Guardian Best Practices and Responsibilities

All parents/guardians of students enrolled in the BVP are asked to support both students and staff during remote learning experiences. The following best practices are offered to assist families as they support students enrolled in the BVP.

- Provide or request adequate technology for your child. If parents/guardians are in need of assistance, they should contact the Blended Virtual Program administrator about possible solutions.
- Support your child's attendance and engagement in all teacher-led lessons and independent learning experiences. Students are required to have cameras on when prompted, unless there is an administratively-approved extenuating circumstance.
- Request access to your child's Schoology account. This is the FCPS learning management platform that provides access to assignments, grades and communication from teachers.
- Encourage your child to complete all assignments on time.
- Create a learning environment at home to support your child's academic and social-emotional learning.
- Encourage your child to build positive relationships with classmates by respecting differences.
- Support your child in using self-care strategies to help achieve their goals and maintain well-being.
- Communicate with your child's teachers to clarify learning expectations and support academic and social-emotional progress.
- Encourage your child to seek assistance from staff and advocate for your child when necessary.
- Take an active interest and role in your child's education. Monitor student work to ensure your child is submitting their own work and not inappropriately aided by others.
- Participate in BVP family activities that support learning and well-being.



## FCPS Policies and Regulations

Students who are enrolled in the BVP are required to follow and adhere to all FCPS policies and regulations, including policies/regulations on attendance, grading, data privacy, discipline, dress code, school supplies/materials, and use of digital technology. A copy of all FCPS policies and regulations can be found at [FCPS Policies and Regulations](#).

In addition, it is important to note that:

- Parents/guardians and students may not record, duplicate, and/or share/post any portion of a student's virtual instruction session.
- Parents/guardians and students must not share passwords or provide access to FCPS online services to anyone.

### Attendance

Students will attend BVP based on their assigned student schedule. If a student does not attend a synchronous session, the student will be marked absent. To remain eligible for the Blended Virtual Program, students must maintain regular attendance and an academic trajectory for promotion to the next grade (see placement and promotion regulations, [Regulation Number 500-10](#)). Students who do not maintain both satisfactory attendance and academic progress will be monitored to determine if continued placement in the virtual program is appropriate.

The FCPS attendance [Regulation Number 400-98](#) will be followed and students who miss school will be required to provide the appropriate documentation as well as follow the guidelines for makeup work.

### Active Participation

Students are required to be engaged and actively participate in their classes. While it may not be required for the entirety of each class, students will be required to engage in live synchronous instruction using a webcam and microphone when prompted. To support student engagement and active participation during synchronous instruction, it is strongly encouraged that a dedicated learning space with reduced distractions is identified for students.

### Technology Use, Including Cameras and Microphone Expectations

- If needed, when enrolling, students will be issued a device to access their virtual classes via Schoology (learning management system) and participate in live virtual instruction.
- Prior to each scheduled class, students should log on a few minutes early to verify audio/video connection.
- Students are required to turn their cameras on when prompted, unless there is an administrative-approved extenuating circumstance.
- Students should mute their microphones as necessary to minimize any interruptions to live virtual instruction.
- Students will follow the FCPS [Regulation Number 400-18](#) on student use of electronic device(s).

### Assessments

Students in the virtual program are required to take all assessments as required by the teacher, Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), and/or FCPS systemic policies. Students will not always be permitted to take assessments virtually. For example, students will be required to participate in mandatory state assessments and national exams, such as AP exams, in person at their home school.

### **Enrollment Commitment**

This document contains important information, responsibilities, and requirements for the parents/guardians and students regarding student enrollment in the FCPS BVP. Please read the entire document carefully. If you have any questions, contact your child's BVP principal.

In order for FCPS to provide appropriate staffing and resources for the BVP, parents selecting this option for their elementary and/or middle school students are committing for their child to attend this program for the entire school year. Parents selecting the virtual program for their high school student are committing their child to attend for a minimum of one semester.

While enrolled at the virtual program, FCPS will monitor each student's progress towards meeting academic success. If a student is not making academic progress due to poor attendance or failing grades, FCPS reserves the right to recommend a change in a student's learning model.

If during the school year, a parent/guardian decides that their child should return to in-person learning at their home school, they should put their request in writing to the BVP principal. If this request can be accommodated at the home school, the student will be allowed to transfer at the beginning of a new term. It should be noted that some home schools may not be able to accommodate specific schedules and/or have seats available until the following school year.

### **Acknowledgment and Agreement**

By enrolling your child in the FCPS Blended Virtual Program (BVP), both the parent/guardian and their student understand the requirements and expectations set forth above, that enrolled students will meet the listed requirements and the parent/guardian understand that their student's success depends on meeting the requirements. The parent/guardian and student also understand that the student's enrollment in the BVP is a full school year commitment for both elementary and middle school students and will be a one semester commitment for high school students with the opportunity to participate in the program for the entire school year.