



Thank you for your interest in the Van Buren School District's (VBSD) River Valley Virtual Academy (RVVA). Below are the answers to a number of Frequently Asked Questions about RVVA.

[Please take a few minutes to also watch this informative video about virtual learning.](#)

1. When is the deadline to choose full-time virtual school for my student?

To help ensure proper staffing and to develop plans to support families, the deadline to select full-time virtual school through the River Valley Virtual Academy is August 7th.

2. What grade levels can enroll in the RVVA?

VBSD students in grades K-12 are eligible to enroll in the River Valley Virtual Academy.

3. Can RVVA students participate in graduation and prom?

Yes, RVVA students may participate in Van Buren High School's graduation and prom activities.

4. Are RVVA students eligible to participate in athletics, band, choir, and other extracurricular activities?

Yes, RVVA students are part of VBSD and may participate in all AAA-sanctioned activities.

5. How much does it cost to participate in the River Valley Virtual Academy?

Enrollment is free for all students.

6. Are teachers assigned to the students enrolled in RVVA?

Yes, students have access to certified educators both at the RVVA campus and via online support throughout the semester.

7. How do I receive more information about the full-time virtual program?

[Visit the River Valley Virtual Academy website for more details.](#) Students interested in enrolling participate in a two-week orientation/trial. During the orientation, students engage in core content areas and interact with the virtual Learning Management System. The orientation allows families to make informed decisions before finalizing the enrollment process.

8. Can I enroll part-time at the River Valley Virtual Academy?

No, students enrolled at RVVA are full-time students and must reside within the Van Buren School District, unless approved through school choice or by board-to-board transfer.

9. Do RVVA students participate in state assessments?

Yes, RVVA students participate in all state assessments. State assessments are administered on campus unless the campus has reason to be closed.

10. Can RVVA students come on campus to work with a support teacher?

When additional support is needed, RVVA teachers schedule times to work with students either virtually or on campus.

11. What is the expectation of parents for students in RVVA?

Parents of RVVA students play a significant role in the learning process and serve as at-home learning coaches. Parents must monitor and support students throughout the day. Students in grades K-2 require a parent/guardian to sit alongside them as they complete coursework. Students in third grade and above may be able to work more independently but may still require significant support throughout the school day to be successful. Based on grade-level and content, students and parents may dedicate an average of four to eight hours a day on coursework, depending on the student's needs and abilities. Parents of online students must ensure all coursework is completed on time and with a passing score. Parents are essential partners in the successful outcome of virtual school students.

12. Are there any supplies that must be purchased?

Most supplies are provided digitally. However, parents need to provide internet access, device, paper, pencils, and a variety of household items for science labs such as a coffee filter, cups, etc. A specific list is provided at the beginning of each unit.

13. What characteristics are essential to the success of virtual students?

Students enrolled in RVVA must be able to work independently or with the support of parents. They should also be self-motivated and capable of managing their time efficiently.

14. How is student attendance determined for virtual students? Student attendance is taken by monitoring the completed coursework throughout the week. Lessons not completed throughout the week will result in a student absence for the incomplete coursework. Student absences follow the procedures of the Van Buren School District. Virtual students develop flexible schedules to meet the needs of families with some element of control over time, place, path, or pace of their learning.

15. How long is a student enrolled in RVVA?

Once the orientation is complete, students enrolling in RVVA commit to the virtual learning model for a full semester (Fall/Spring).

16. When is the first day of school?

RVVA follows the same calendar as VBSD. The first day of school is August 24, 2020.

17. How do I get started in the enrollment process?

[Complete the google form to participate in the student orientation.](#)

For additional questions, please contact RVVA Coordinator, Dr. Jennifer Feeny at jennifer.feeny@vbsd.us.

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