

Van Buren School District Ready for Learning District Plan

Action 1: The Van Buren School District (VBSD) will ensure the continuity of teaching and learning by providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum that includes blended learning (K-12) and diagnostic assessments (K-8).

All VBSD students, K-12, will be provided a viable curriculum aligned to the Arkansas Academic Standards. VBSD teachers collaboratively develop lessons and units aligned to Arkansas standards. In addition to the lessons and units, all curriculum programs and materials are carefully reviewed by teams of teachers in order to ensure all instruction is aligned to Arkansas standards.

VBSD will offer two instructional models. Families may choose between a blended learning model at each school campus or a fully virtual model through the District's conversion charter school, [River Valley Virtual Academy](#).

Option #1 is a blended learning model, which includes students returning to campus for a more traditional classroom learning experience. It is designated as a blended learning model because of its ability to transition to remote learning, if necessary. Teachers will use online tools to familiarize students with the virtual learning process. This is intended to help ready students for remote (at home) learning in the event of a school closure or need for the student to quarantine at home.

K-12 students will attend school on campus for daily instruction, Monday-Friday. Virtual content will be incorporated into regular classroom learning. (See Remote Learning PLAN)

VBSD will utilize Google Classroom as its primary learning management system for Option #1. Other systems such as Canvas will also be incorporated. Programs include, but are not limited to:

IStation (Grades K-8)

Newsela (Grades K-8)

Learning.com (Grades K-8)

Whizzimo

Discovery (Grades 7-8)

Edgenuity (Grades 9-12)

Naviance (Grades 8-12)

Nearpod (Grades 10-12)

IXL (Grades 10-12)

MobyMax (Grades 10-12)

Option #2 allows students to enroll in VBSD's [River Valley Virtual Academy](#). Established by VBSD in 2017, the online conversion charter school allows students to complete all courses/curriculum online.

All instruction is completed online. Students complete coursework at home, but have access to educator support both virtually and in-person at the RVVA campus.

Students can work at their own pace and can complete work ahead of schedule. Families will coordinate with RVVA staff to ensure that students are staying on track to complete assignments in a timely manner. Students can participate in VBSD activities on campus, including athletics, band, choir, and other clubs. Students will be required to complete all state assessments on campus.

RVVA will use Pearson Connexus for its learning management system and Pearson curriculum for grades 9-12 and Florida Flex Point for grades K-8.

Action 2: The Van Buren School District will address unfinished learning from the prior year by using the Arkansas Playbook: Addressing Unfinished Learning.

VBSD teachers will assess students to determine unfinished learning from the prior year by using the Arkansas Playbook: Addressing Unfinished Learning. At the beginning of the school year, key skills and standards from the previous school year will be identified and addressed through Arkansas Playbook units at each grade level. Teachers at each school will work in teams to assess students and determine instructional needs for each grade level.

In addition to the Arkansas Playbook, VBSD teachers will use assessments such as IStation (K-8), DIBELS (K-2), Foundations (K-3), and ACT Aspire interim (K-9) to inform instruction and unfinished learning.

Action 3: The Van Buren School District will use Learning Management Systems (LMS).

VBSD will use Google (K-12) and Canvas learning management systems (6-8). The River Valley Virtual Academy will use the Connexus learning management system.

Actions 4 & 5: The Van Buren School District will provide teacher training for how to use the learning management systems and blended learning.

VBSD teachers will be trained at their school on the Buzz, Google and Canvas learning management systems and blended learning during professional development prior to school starting. As needed, they will continue training via video/zoom sessions during grade level collaborative team time each week.

Action 6: The Van Buren School District will provide support for parents and students on effective use of technology.

VBSD Parents will be introduced to the LMS at open house and through emails and newsletters. Students will engage in the LMS throughout the year. VBSD has internet hotspots and digital devices available to meet the learning needs of all students.

Action 7: The Van Buren School District will provide a written communication plan for interacting with parents, students, and the community regarding day-to-day expectations.

VBSD will work diligently to stay in communication with its families in cases of school closures. VBSD will continue to utilize its District website, news blog, and social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. It will also utilize video and audio messaging when necessary. Any new updates shared by the Governor or Education Secretary are also quickly communicated to VBSD parents, students, and the community.