



Onsted Virtual Academy “Frequently Asked Questions”

We understand that there are many questions about the Onsted Virtual Academy and how it works. We would like to try and answer as many questions as we can.

The Onsted Virtual Academy has classes that are taught through an online software provider. Calvert offers our K-5 curriculum and Plato is our 6-12 provider.

Who teaches the virtual academy classes?

The classes are set up similar to a book with units that have lessons then quizzes at the end followed by a unit test at the end of each unit. You can think of the online classes as everything you would get in a class. For example a book, handouts, quizzes, activities, tests, but they are all provided on a computer. The difference is they cannot ask questions, be shown more examples, or have teacher intervention like in the classroom. All classes have an exam at the end of the class. Some lessons have short videos and there are also activities during the lessons to help with understanding. The program has the ability of text to speech to help students that struggle with reading. Students are to take notes and use their own calculator just like if they were in a regular class. Students are also encouraged to use other resources when they are stuck on a subject, as many math students use khan academy for assistance with math and science.

How does Onsted Community Schools help support the students?

A certified teacher makes contact with students each week. The teacher checks in to help answer any questions along with make sure they are trying to stay on pace. The teachers are available to help with questions on assignments or quizzes. Students and/or parents can contact the teacher throughout the week to answer any questions. The teacher also sends home a weekly email that states the progress goal that students should achieve for the week. We try to keep the lines of communication open to support the students and parents.

How can parents check on progress?

Parents will have the same information that students have and are able to log in and see how the student is doing in the class. Parents are encouraged to email teachers with questions.

What are suggestions to make virtual learning successful?

Online learning has a wide range of outcomes. Students are successful when they stay on a schedule and communicate with their mentor teacher. Online learning allows for students to work when they are comfortable or when it will fit into the students and also parents schedules. A great way to stay focused is to work in intervals. We suggest breaking up the work throughout

the day. After an hour or so, students can lose focus. If they stop after completing an assignment or an hour, take a break, then come back refreshed and move on to the next lesson. Communication is also very important. Questions that arise or any type of issue that comes up, families need to contact their supervising teacher to make sure time is not lost. We also suggest other sites that can help like Khan academy. Another great idea to help is a specific space with less distractions for them to focus. Working in their bedroom or in front of a television is not going to help their progress. Daily routine, just like attending regular school, makes a very successful online experience. Setting goals each day with a reward at the end is another way to help motivate young students.

Do the students work at their own pace?

Students will be given a pacing guideline to follow that parents will be able to also see. Staying on pace is very important to the students' success. Students should log in every day and put some work in. The classes and amount will vary depending on what the lesson or activity for the day may be and if they are behind or ahead of pace. Students can work any day of the week, any time of the day.

Do students have to be in Onsted to be part of the Virtual Academy?

No, students can participate in the Onsted Virtual Academy and be anywhere. We have had students do this that have been out of state. They have the same expectations and support that every other student will receive.

Do the Onsted Virtual Classes align with the classes in the traditional classroom?

We try to make sure that the classes are aligned together. The traditional classes can sometimes vary depending on understanding and other possible issues, but in that case a student that comes from an online learning environment could see something twice.

How do we set up to enroll in the Onsted Virtual Academy classes?

Contact Mr. Terryberry or your building principal. You will need to meet to go over enrollment and expectations to help make this successful for your student. Your student needs to be present to understand the process and expectations for learning.

How much time will students be expected to work every day?

Time will vary but in K-5th grade usually 15 hours per week.

When will students start their classes ?

The same as the Onsted Community School calendar, September 8th, 2020.

Will students in the Virtual Academy be allowed to get their school pictures taken? Will they be in the yearbook?

Yes

If my student is in the Virtual Academy, can they still attend the Tech Center? Yes they can and would have 4 hours through the virtual academy.

If my child has an IEP or 504 Plan can we choose the Virtual Option?

Yes, the program works with the supports that are listed in a student's IEP. We will work with your family to hold IEP meetings and to make sure that supports are in place. LISD services like speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc. will be provided at school.

Next Steps

- General overview on ZOOM with Onsted Team to answer questions--August 13th at 7pm
- Individual Meeting with each Family and Student---Scheduling August 17-21 from 1:00-4:00 and August 24-28 from 7:00-2:00.
 - Schedule your Family Meeting which is face-to-face to sign documents
 - Pick up a device if you need one

Resources to Review:

- [A Day in the Life of Calvert for a Student](#)
- [Calvert Promo Video](#)
- [General Student and Parent Resources](#)
- [A Parent Guide: Support your Child During Virtual Learning](#)
- [5 Things Parents Can Do to Support Students in Virtual Courses](#)