

# Welcome to the Canaan Virtual Academy

A Partnership with the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative

We know that families at Canaan Schools may be worried about sending their child(ren) back to school this fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Or, you may have discovered that your child enjoyed and succeeded at online learning during the school closure.

At the start of the 2020-2021 school year, Canaan School District will be offering a full-time virtual learning experience, called the **Canaan Virtual Academy** for students in grades K-12. Families interested in PreK remote learning experience will be addressed individually.

The Canaan Virtual Academy will offer high-quality classes led by highly-qualified, certified Vermont teachers from around the state, who have completed additional training in virtual instruction. Students who participate in the virtual academy will do all learning from home. We have partnered with the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC) who is now offering a K-12 program option for students. The VTVLC provides the district with the structure, platform, training and curriculum in order to create a consistent high-quality educational experience for full-time 100% virtual learners. The language of "Virtual Academy" is meant to showcase that these are still Canaan School District students but will be enrolled into a program through the VTVLC.

Students will have the consistency they need for continuous interactive learning regardless of uncertainties of the pandemic and potential of school closures due to COVID-19 related issues or severe weather. Students who are learning from home as part of the Canaan Virtual Academy don't need to worry about wearing masks or social distancing that will be in place at Canaan Schools. The consistency of Canaan Virtual Academy virtual classrooms will provide students an opportunity to bond and interact with peers to create a caring, supportive learning community.

As a student in our virtual academy, your child will be enrolled in a comprehensive online educational program that provides the support and services they need to succeed. The VTVLC program offers online face-to-face interaction with educators from all over Vermont. Students can still access support service providers within school, and is overseen by the Coordinator of Virtual Learning to ensure a strong connection to Canaan Schools. Special Education teachers and therapists within the district also will provide virtual supports for students who qualify.

At the start of the 2020-2021 school year, **all** Canaan School District K-12 students will be given a Chromebook to use if needed. Students will need to access remotely to engage in their learning, complete assignments, and communicate with teachers, counselors and their virtual academy peers while they are working virtually.

Students will be held accountable for their learning and will receive grades just as they would in school. Teachers will be able to monitor and assess student engagement and progress in real time. Our School Counselor, Kara Sweatt and Principal, Debbie Lynch will oversee the operation of virtual learning.

The first day of school for Canaan Virtual Academy is Tuesday, September 8th. If you have questions about the Canaan Virtual Academy, please email School Counselor, Kara Sweatt at [klsweatt@canaanschools.org](mailto:klsweatt@canaanschools.org).

We look forward to providing your child with an online option that works for them and we are honored to partner with you in your child's education!

**Important Note:** When electing to sign your child up for the Virtual Academy partnership with the VTVLC, we are asking that you are committing to this program for the full-2020-2021 school year. In the event that the program does not work for a student, parents will be asked to reach out to their child's virtual learning teacher to make accommodations. The School Counselor and Principal can assist in problem solving if the accommodations are not successful. Students may un-enroll at the end of the first semester if necessary. Enrolling in the Canaan Virtual Academy will provide stability and consistency in your child's educational experience. Enrolling is 100% optional.