

Canaan Virtual Academy (K-12)

FAQ For Families

A Partnership with Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC)

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: August 9, 2020 (**This is a fluid document that will continue to receive updates**)

Purpose of this Fluid Document: As we enter into uncharted territory as an educational system with many moving parts, we want to provide consistent, transparent, and timely information to all stakeholders. This frequently asked questions (FAQ) document will help to answer questions related to our 100% Virtual Learning option for families. Since this is an evolving system, we will continue to update the document as questions are answered. The language of “Virtual Academy” is used to embody the idea that students enrolling in the VTVLC partnership are still students of the Canaan School District.

What is the Canaan Virtual Academy?

The Canaan Virtual Academy (CVA) is a new initiative from the district through a partnership with the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC) for students in grades K-12. The language of “Virtual Academy” is used to embody the idea that students enrolling in the VTVLC partnership are STILL students of the Canaan School District.

What is the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC)?

Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative:

- Founded in 2009, created through ARRA Title IId Funding.
- An integral part of the Vermont Public Education System.
- VTVLC works through a Cooperative Partnership with all VT schools.
- Thus far has supported over 10,000 students.
- Central Office is located in Springfield, VT.

What do the VTVLC and Canaan School District Provide?

VTVLC

- A Learning Management System, Canvas.
- Online Content from Florida Virtual School and eDynamics.
- Teacher and School support, statewide resources.

Canaan School District

- A School Coordinator, Support Staff, and Local Oversight.
- Student devices, School Community Access.

Who is eligible to enroll in Canaan Virtual Academy?

Any currently enrolled Canaan Schools K-12 student is eligible for the Canaan Virtual Academy. ***The deadline to enroll is August 17, 2020.***

When will the Canaan Virtual Academy begin?

Canaan Virtual Academy is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020.

When is the first day of school for all other Canaan students?

The first day of in-person classes for PreK-12 is Tuesday, September. 8th. This will be the same for the Virtual Academy students.

What days and times are students getting instruction with Canaan Virtual Academy?

Students will be receiving work in weekly chunks and the schedule will be created in conjunction with the teacher(s) and VTVLC.

Who will teach the Canaan Virtual Academy?

Certified and highly-qualified Vermont educators will be teaching the online curriculum.

Will students in full-time virtual learning receive computers?

Yes, all students K-12 will be issued computers for online learning. Families will be required to have adequate, reliable access to the Internet (at least 3.2 Mbps). Contact our Technology Coordinator, Jeff Richards at jrichards@canaanschools.org if you have any questions.

How do I enroll my child in the Canaan Virtual Academy?

Your child must already be enrolled in the Canaan School District. If you responded to the Full-Year Remote Learning Option on your parent survey response, you will be contacted to confirm enrollment in the Canaan Virtual Academy.

Is the Canaan Virtual Academy for K-12 students fully accredited?

VTVLC works under a cooperative model. Each course is offered by a licensed instructor from a Vermont public school, and each of these schools is accredited independently through (primarily) NEASC. The course curriculum is licensed from Florida Virtual School which is accredited by two major agencies: The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation.

Can my child go back to the regular classroom after attending the Canaan Virtual Academy?

The design for this program is a year-long commitment. 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. If that is not successful, families can contact the Director/Principal of the VTVLC, Jeff Renard, to ask for further assistance. As a last case scenario, families may contact the Canaan Coordinator of Virtual Learning to assist in problem-solving if the accommodations are not successful. Students may un-enroll at the end of the first semester if necessary.

Can my child be denied attending the Canaan Virtual Academy?

This program is for families to “opt” into and is by no means a requirement. Therefore, it is completely the responsibility of the family to determine if they want to take advantage of this educational option.

How will my child be kept accountable for their coursework with Canaan Virtual Academy?

All students who are enrolled with the Canaan Virtual Academy will receive grades and continuous feedback from their teacher(s). Teachers will be able to monitor and assess student classwork and activities in real-time. Parents will be able to stay updated on attendance, grades, and assignments through the Parent Portal just as they do when students are in in-person classes.

What happens if my child's or family's health situation changes and I need to enroll my child in Canaan Virtual Academy after the deadline or at a later date?

We will determine whether we are able to provide this option to students on an individual basis.

If Canaan Schools close due to COVID-19 and my child is not enrolled in Canaan Virtual Academy, how will his/her education continue?

If Canaan Schools closes, students who had been attending in-person classes will connect online with classroom teachers. At the beginning of the school year, to ensure online learning continues, students will be issued devices -- K-2 students (devices to be determined) and Chromebooks for grades 3-12. The Canaan Virtual Academy is an option for families to select into at the start of the school year.

Can my child take P.E., Music, and Art at Canaan Schools while doing their other coursework online?

Students enrolled in the Canaan Virtual Academy will have instruction in P.E., music, and art online and will have activities and projects they complete at home.

Does the program provide instructional materials?

Canaan Virtual Academy will provide a computer or device (provided by the district). Common school and office supplies like printer ink and paper are not provided.

What student skills are necessary for success in virtual courses?

- Student has demonstrated time-management skills that indicate the student is capable of submitting assignments and completing course requirements without reminders
- Student has demonstrated persistence in overcoming obstacles and willingness to seek assistance when needed.
- Student has demonstrated verbal or written communication skills that would allow the student to succeed in an online environment.
- Student has the necessary computer or technical skills to succeed in a virtual course.

Do you provide a curriculum for students with special needs?

The Canaan School District will continue to offer services through Special Services in the Canaan Virtual Academy. The Canaan Virtual Academy will provide accommodations, modifications, and assistive technology support for students with disabilities according to current Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) and 504 Plans developed by the school district's IEP and 504 teams. [HERE](#) is a document from the VTVLC that outlines their practice. Jenn Lawcewicz (Director of Student Services) is working in conjunction with VTVLC in order to support students in the Virtual Academy.

Can you accommodate the accelerated learning needs of my gifted/talented child?

The program is flexible in order to meet children where they are in any given subject and will take them where they want to go. Our teachers will work directly with parents and students to ensure proper placement into the curriculum.

Can my child participate in sports and extracurricular activities offered by the Canaan School District?

Yes! Virtual Academy students are able to participate in all extracurricular and sports offered by the Canaan School District. However, this is based on the current landscape for COVID-19 and if these activities are in operation. We also encourage families to connect their child with their classmates at the school remotely during homeroom or morning meeting times.

My child typically gets breakfast and lunch at school. Will the district continue to prepare meals throughout the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes, students attending Virtual Academy will be eligible to receive breakfast and lunch on a regular basis upon request, just as other students in the Canaan School District. The school does not have the capacity to deliver meals. Parents/Guardians will need to make arrangements for pickup at the school.

Who can I contact for more information about Canaan Virtual Academy?

For general questions for the Canaan Virtual Academy, contact School Counselor, Kara Sweatt, klsweatt@canaanschools.org.