

Family Information about Elementary Sumner Virtual Academy

Q: Will students be on the computer for the full 6.5 hours a day?

A: No. SVA is designed to look like a regular school day. Students will still have a Sumner County teacher and classmates; they will just be online. The teacher will meet with students via Zoom, and the lesson will be interactive between students and the teacher. The SVA teacher will use the same curriculum as the teachers in the other elementary schools. Imagine it is time for Math. The lesson may begin with the teacher posing a question, modeling math with a new strategy, and the students will share their ideas. There may be an assigned video at times. Students will then log off and work independently for awhile, just like they would during the school day. Then students will either submit work via Google Classroom or come back together to discuss their thinking.

Q: Is the schedule flexible or does our family need to plan to be on SVA for the full school day?

A: Because the teacher will be meeting with students throughout the day leading lessons and moving through the content areas together, families need to plan to be active with SVA during the full school day. Families will have a live Sumner County teacher teaching their child during the normal school day.

Q: What about school supplies and workbooks?

A: Families will provide their own school supplies for SVA. However, if there is something the family needs that they are not able to purchase, they can reach out to the school and the school will provide it. On the other hand, the zoned school will provide curriculum and text materials to the student.

The zoned school will reach out to families when those materials are ready for pick up (likely close to July 30th or 31st. No materials will be required during the first week of SVA.) Once families decide to return back to the zoned school, students will bring those materials back to the classroom with them. (Schools will also supply materials students need that are very specific to the curriculum, such as K-2 materials to build the individual Number Racks for math.)

Q: What curriculum is used in SVA?

A: Teachers in Sumner Virtual Academy will use the same curriculum that is used in all of the Sumner County Schools. For ELA, students use Wit & Wisdom; K-2 students use Foundations for phonics and other foundational skills. In math, students use Bridges in Mathematics and Number Corner. Teachers in SVA will use the same pacing guide as other SCS teachers. This is to help create a seamless transition back to the classroom when the family is ready to return back to their zoned school.

Q: What about grades?

A: Students will submit their work to their SVA teacher through Google Classroom. For the most part, the same assignments will be graded that would be graded if students were with their zoned

classroom teacher. Their grades, progress report, and report card will still show up through Skyward and are graded by their SVA teacher.

Q: How will we stay connected to our zoned school?

A: Families are welcome to stay connected to school Facebook pages, including PTO, clubs, etc. If students want to participate in extracurricular activities, such as a school running club, that will need to happen after SVA hours. Families are also permitted to check out library books from their zoned school. They will use the online system to checkout books with the librarian and pick up the books in the school office. Otherwise, students and families won't need to visit the school campus.

Q: How will we receive support from SpEd, EL, 504, etc.?

A: This team of specialists will connect with the students' SVA teacher and join the students' Google Classroom. They will work with the teachers to make suggestions or support based on the student's individual needs.

Q: What will gifted services look like?

A: Once the class lists are final, the special education teacher will contact parents to schedule an IEP meeting. The purpose will be to consider the student's needs and how the IEP services could look in SVA.

It may be that the services include time spent working from a Google Classroom set up by a Scholar Workshop/Scholar Seminar teacher, which includes time working through problem-solving activities both independently and with other gifted students, or it could be a focus on independent projects that target the student's area(s) of interest. There will be times for a gifted teacher to connect "live" with the student. Also, connections will be made with the virtual school's teachers regarding enrichment and the provision of challenges in the general curriculum.

There will likely not be a disruption in the gifted services during the time gifted students are in the virtual academy, but it could be that those services look a bit different than what they have been used to due to the nature of virtual learning. Reentry into the traditional setting should be an easy move.

Q: What about related arts?

A: Related arts and STEM will be assigned to the students. SVA will attempt to choose art activities with materials that can easily be found at home.

Q: What about kindergarten?

A: Kindergarten will still have a phase in week with assessments. We do not have a district-wide assessment that we give to kindergarteners. Many schools have chosen to develop their own assessment. Teachers will use the assessment to which they are most familiar. We want to make this easy on the teachers AND give a baseline assessment.

Also, kindergarten and first grade teachers will be consciences of being developmentally appropriate. There will be hands-on, experiential learning taking place. These young children will work on fine motor skills, pencil grip, and writing just as they would in the classroom.

Q: Will additional homework be assigned?

A: There will not be a regular expectation for students to complete additional homework in elementary schools. However, as the teacher works with students, he or she may provide extra practice to a student on occasion, as needed.

Q: When will we find out who our teacher is? Will we know who our teacher is at our zoned school?

A: Once the SVA window closes, students will be assigned to a Sumner Virtual Academy Teacher. Teachers will reach out to families during the week of July 27th. Zoned schools will probably not share who the child's classroom teacher "will be upon return" until the student returns to the classroom. Classroom numbers may change. Therefore, placement may change.

Q: Do we need a printer for SVA?

A: Between Google Classroom and curriculum materials provided by the zoned school, SVA teachers will try to limit printing. The goal will be to have very little printing of materials, if any.

Q: What platform is being used for virtual academy?

A: We will be using Google Classroom. If you have a Gmail account, you may be familiar with Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Forms, and such. All of these will be used within Google Classroom, along with Zoom for interactive classroom meetings and instruction.

Q: How often will books and worksheets be used?

A: They will be used part of the time. The SVA teachers will be Sumner County teachers, who will continue teaching from the same curricula that is being used in the other Sumner County Schools, which includes Wit & Wisdom, Foundations, and Bridges in Math. All of this curriculum is interactive, hands on, collaborative, and designed to challenge students and lead them to deep thinking. They will have texts to read and workbooks to record their thinking, but as a parent, you'll notice workbooks are a tool for writing, drawing, and recording learning and thinking. Each lesson is a little different. Some lessons also involve games, writing, discussions about observations...it's always a little different.