



ELEMENTARY UPDATE: VIRTUAL LEARNING

Ken-Ton K-4 Virtual Families:

We wanted to update you on some changes that are being made as we begin to bring students back into our buildings. Over the past few weeks, a number of concerns have surfaced in regards to the developmental appropriateness of instructing both in-person and virtual primary students simultaneously, specifically the stamina, attentiveness and engagement of our youngest students in this model. Your concerns have not gone unnoticed, and we have worked hard to find solutions to address these concerns.

Our youngest students need more individualized attention as their management needs compete with their learning needs. The district has worked tirelessly to ensure that all students, regardless of the model families need, have the opportunity for dedicated learning time that meets the developmental needs of our youngest students.

Students Registered for Virtual Learning

Ken-Ton will implement the following for Full Virtual students:

For our K-4 students ONLY, those students who requested a fully remote model will begin working with a dedicated Ken-Ton VLA teacher for their ELA and a dedicated Ken-Ton VLA teacher for their Math lessons using a phase-in approach.

Students in Grades K-1

- ❑ **Grade K-1** Full Virtual Students will be reassigned to a virtual teacher for ELA, and a virtual teacher for math starting **October 13, 2020**, the same date as the implementation of Phase II. Special area teachers will remain the same in addition to social studies lessons coming from your child's original classroom teacher. Special area classes will continue to be provided asynchronously.
- ❑ Grade K-1 Students enrolled in full virtual learning, your child's school and teachers will communicate with you within the next week.

Students in Grades 2-4

- ❑ **Grade 2-4** Full virtual students are scheduled to be reassigned to a virtual Math and a virtual ELA teacher starting **November 16, 2020**, or at the time of Phase III implementation. This model will continue to be reevaluated and refined as needed during the weeks preceding this date. Special area teachers will remain the same in addition to social studies lessons coming from your child's original classroom teacher. Special area classes will continue to be provided asynchronously.

- ❑ Grades 2-4 Full virtual students will be notified of your child's new teachers closer to the return date. **Again, your child will stay with his/her classroom teacher until November 16, 2020.**

Additional Information for K-4 Students Enrolled in Virtual Learning:

- ❑ Your child's virtual schedule WILL change from the current Remote schedule. Please understand that it was necessary to change regardless of the most recent adjustment. Expect a schedule to be shared by your child's new teacher that will reflect a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction that will start in the morning and end early afternoon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
- ❑ If a VLA student requests to return to the Hybrid model, that student will resume hybrid with the original classroom teacher. Students will be permitted to continue to switch into hybrid, but we will not accept students wishing to enroll in virtual at this time, due to staffing demands.
- ❑ Our Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) teachers will consist of designated classroom and/or RtI Reading Specialists for reading instruction, and RtI Math Specialists for math instruction.
- ❑ If your child is staying in full virtual learning after the start date of hybrid instruction, your child's original teacher will continue to meet with them sometime between 8:30am-9:00am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. The exact time will be confirmed by your child's teacher. This teacher will also connect with students on Wednesdays at 9:00am.
- ❑ Students that request to leave VLA and return to school in the hybrid model will move back into the original teacher's classroom. This virtual morning meeting allows students to maintain the connection with the teacher to ease this potential transition.
- ❑ Teachers will utilize Wednesday mornings as another opportunity to connect with ALL students. As the meetings progresses, the teacher will commence a Literacy lesson with the hybrid students as one group.

K-4 Students Participating in Virtual Special Education Self-Contained Programs

Due to the fact that we will welcome our students participating in hybrid special education self-contained programs beginning the week of October 13th for four days, some adjustments will be made for our virtual students in the same programs. These students will participate in synchronous learning for ELA and Math lessons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. These lessons will be provided by the current special education teacher, but may be facilitated by an assigned teaching assistant to ensure our students at home have dedicated and uninterrupted programming and support. Related services will be scheduled directly with the related service provider to best fit the individual student's schedule. Students will be scheduled to receive a variety of learning opportunities on Wednesdays, including asynchronous learning, synchronous learning or related service sessions.

Ken-Ton is committed to providing the very best instruction to our in-person students and our virtual students during this unprecedented time. We appreciate your feedback and flexibility as we navigate the learning for all students.