

Frequently Asked Questions
From Facebook Live on Back To School 2020

Do I have to have a computer and internet access to participate? Can we use a school issued device if we need one?

Technology is the preferred platform. If you need technology support, please contact your building principal so they can determine how to help solve your technology needs. Students who cannot access a high-speed internet connection at home or need a school device should contact their school directly and every effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

Who will be teaching the virtual students?

Dunklin R-5 teachers will be the instructor for most Virtual Blackcat students. The only exceptions **may** be certain specific courses requiring specific unique certifications.

How long will students be on the computer in the virtual setup?

Each week students will receive the learning plan and assignments for the week for their classes. Students and families should expect to learn for an amount of time equivalent to in-person learning. Please keep in mind that the level of student engagement during the learning will impact the actual amount of time students require to work towards the learning goals.

Grade	Minimum amount of dedicated learning time each week	Minimum amount of dedicated learning time each day
Pre-K	11 hours	2 hours 10 min
K-2	12 hours	2 hours 30 min
3-5	16.5 hours	3 hours 30 min
6-8	20 hours	4 hours
9-12	25 hours	5 hours

Will students be expected to be online at a certain time?

Virtual teachers will have set meeting times scheduled with their students to avoid conflicts with other virtual classes. Virtual attendance at these is highly encouraged. However, every effort will be made to ensure that these meetings are recorded for view at any time.

Will I receive Title I services, ELL services, OT/PT, or speech services?

Yes. Schedules will be created by educators to provide needed services to students that qualify.

Will I be allowed to participate in clubs and activities and sports after school hours?

Yes. under current guidelines by governing bodies such as MSHSAA Virtual Blackcat students will be allowed to participate.

Will I still be considered part of their school building community?

As a Dunklin R-5 Virtual Blackcat student, you will still be affiliated with your school building and will be included in that communication.

Will all classes be offered to all virtual students.

This will depend on the number of students enrolling in the program and seat counts in virtual classes, much like how scheduling is done in the normal classroom.

As an elementary student, will I get specials like art, music, and PE?

Yes. There will be a rotating schedule for students to receive specials.

What is hold harmless grading and will it be used for the Virtual Blackcat?

When utilizing a hold harmless approach to grading, a student's grade cannot be hurt by work completed or not completed during a specified period of time. During the fourth quarter of the 2019-2020 school year, all students were graded utilizing a hold harmless approach, meaning that a grade would only be entered into a teacher's grade book if the grade was equal to or higher than a student's third quarter grade. Otherwise, the grade was marked as "Exempt."

Grading practices will also mirror in-person learning and WILL NOT be "hold harmless" as it was in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

How long will I be enrolled in the Dunklin R-5 Virtual Blackcat?

Students must commit to attending the Dunklin R-5 Virtual Blackcat for one full semester for grades 6-12 and one full quarter for grades K-5.

Will I be able to switch between attending the in-person and the Dunklin R-5 Virtual Blackcat?

Families will select either in seat or the Virtual Blackcat model for each student. Students who enroll in the Virtual Blackcat must make a one-semester or one quarter commitment based on their grade level. However, students who select the in seat option may transfer to the Virtual Blackcat based on course availability.

If my student misses due to illness will they be enrolled in Virtual Blackcat? If we have to close will students be enrolled in Virtual Blackcat?

No on both accounts. Student illnesses are similar to the past, however, teachers are transitioning in seat lessons more to Google Classroom to allow for students to have access to all missing work in these instances. If the school has to close for any reason, the Dunklin school district has an AMI and an AMI-X plan that would be implemented depending on the length of the closure. These plans, which stand for alternative methods of instruction, break down the steps we will take to continue to provide educational services to students that are not enrolled in the Virtual Blackcat option. Both of these plans do implement some virtual learning options. Students enrolled in Virtual Blackcat are not impacted by either of these scenarios.

Will Virtual students receive textbooks?

Most of our learning tools for the Virtual Blackcat option are digital, including some virtual textbooks.

Would I still receive meal services on virtual learning days?

Yes, meals will be available to pick up for students at designated times. Please contact School Food and Nutrition Services at 636-479-5200 ext. 3009 for complete details.

What kind of supplies will students need for virtual learning?

The supplies needed would be similar to what a student would need in the typical classroom for their personal use.

How will being pulled out for IEP services like extra time for core lessons and speech work at the elementary school?

If the student is attending in-person then services will not be different than years past. If the student is attending virtually they will receive services. Each parent will be contacted by their child's case manager to determine what virtual special education services will look like for their child. These decisions will be made based on the individual needs of the child.

As a new family to the district is it possible to hold an in-person IEP meeting to introduce our son to his new team?

Your child's building will provide an opportunity for them to tour the building and meet their case manager. All IEP meetings will be conducted virtually or by phone this school year.

Will students with IEP and 504 plans be able to still get the help we need?

Services and accommodations will be provided to students according to their IEP or 504 plan. All IEPs and many 504 plans will be reviewed prior to the start of the school year to make adjustments for virtual instruction.

Will my student with IEP get the virtual help she needs?

If the student is attending virtually they will receive special education services. Each parent will be contacted by their child's case manager to determine what virtual special education services will look like for their child. These decisions will be made based on the individual needs of the child.

What accommodation will be made for the kiddos with IEPs in high school? Specifically utilize resources including class in a class?

If the student is attending in-person then services will not be different than years past. If the student is attending virtually they will receive services. Each parent will be contacted by their child's case manager to determine what virtual special education services will look like for their child. These decisions will be made based on the individual needs of the child.

How is it going to work with buses?

We will social distance to the extent possible. We will also seat students from the back - forward for loading and release from the front - back. Drivers will wear masks while group loading and unloading and anytime they are addressing a student or the whole bus

If we drive our daughter to and from school at the beginning of the year, would we be able to switch the bus at a later date?

Yes, but there may be a delay in us routing buses to accommodate that request.

Are the buses going to be disinfected between runs?

Yes, we are adjusting our schedule to allow for disinfecting our buses between routes.

Will the Y club be open for before and after school care?

If interested in this service, please contact the YMCA. If there is enough interest to support this program the YMCA will still provide this service.

Will masks be required for all students?

When students are physically present on campus, face coverings will be required at certain times throughout the day (on buses, during transitions, when directed in classes, and when

social distancing is not possible). A washable mask will be provided for students to wear in grades K-12

Will the schools hold open house?

Virtual Open Houses will be held for Pevely, Senn Thomas, and Herculaneum High School available for viewing on Monday, August 24. This will be for grades 1-5; 7-8; and 10-12 as well as those in K, 6th, and 9th who cannot make the in-person option. Students in transition grades (K, 6th, 9th) and our Taylor Early Childhood Center will have in person open houses scheduled.

Will there be enough room in the cafeteria to social distance?

Accommodations such as using other spaces in some buildings are being made to allow for social distancing during lunch.