



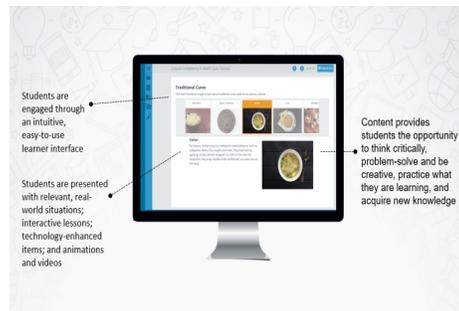
SJVS FAQ Document—Virtual School Information for Parents

What is the virtual learning option?

St. Joseph Public Schools realize that the idea of returning onsite to school this fall may be of concern to you as a parent or guardian for your child. It is our goal to provide a high quality education to every student in our traditional face-to-face school environment or in our virtual environment. We understand that our students need an education that is flexible enough to meet their unique situations, while maintaining quality and credibility of their learning. This fall K-12 families will have a choice to attend St. Joseph Public Schools full time virtual program, a minimum semester commitment is required.

How are the courses delivered?

In partnership with EdOptions Academy, we have developed a K–12 virtual school solution that is rigorous, engaging, and built to state and national standards. All the courses are taught virtual by highly qualified, state-certified teachers experienced in virtual instruction. EdOptions Academy teachers have expertise in engaging and connecting learning to real-life experiences, and the program offers flexible program implementation and management designed for all virtual learning environments. We are committed to creating successful student outcomes everywhere learning occurs. Our virtual teachers help students understand class material and stay on track to achieve their academic goals. All EdOptions Academy teachers are certified in their areas of specialization and have at least three years of classroom experience. Our teachers communicate regularly with partner schools, families, and learners through various asynchronous and synchronous forms. Our internal programs allow for secure methods of communication, web-based systems to manage student grades, assignments, and assessments.



What do the virtual courses look like?

EdOptions Academy incorporates an engaging, age appropriate learning experience that emphasizes real-world applications. Learners are actively engaged and frequently interact with the content. Our active learning approach enables students to apply what they have learned, practice, and check their understanding. In addition, there are many project-based learning (PBL) activities that teach 21st century skills for workplace effectiveness, helping students develop higher-order thinking skills, and increase course engagement through student agency.

Are virtual courses less challenging than traditional courses?

No, EdOptions Academy offers a comprehensive K-12 curriculum and diagnostic assessment correlated to rigorous state and national standards. We also offer honors and AP courses for secondary students. Our curriculum employs a variety of learning activities to actively engage students and foster critical thinking.

- AP Biology
- AP Calculus
- AP Chemistry
- AP Computer Science A
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP French
- AP Spanish
- AP US History
- Honors Algebra 1 A/B
- Honors Algebra 2 A/B
- Honors Geometry A/B
- Honors Precalculus A/B
- Honors Biology A/B
- Honors Physics A/B
- Honors Chemistry A/B
- Honors Earth & Space Science A/B
- Honors English 9 A/B
- Honors English 10 A/B
- Honors English 11 A/B
- Honors English 12 A/B
- Honors US History A/B
- Honors World History A/B

Will my child just be doing worksheets?

No... All the courses are carefully curated, and deliver research-based curriculum designed to engage learners with

- Problem-based activities and engaging projects that challenge



- students to apply what they learn in deeper, more meaningful ways
- Exposure to engaging activities designed to meet the needs of diverse learners, including videos, audio content, and problem-based interactive lessons and virtual labs
 - Instructional approaches are designed for students whose families are enthusiastic about partnering with educators and facilitating a highly personalized learning journey

Is my child just learning from a computer?

A common misconception is that students take virtual courses and attend virtual schools because they can “learn from a computer.” In fact, students rarely, if ever, learn from a computer. They learn using virtual instructional materials, adaptive software, and—most importantly—one or more adults involved in their education.

My child needs extra support. How do they get it?

Teachers are available to provide instruction and support to their students as they learn to navigate virtual learning. Teachers are available for 1:1 support, provide weekly live lessons around content specific topics, provide on-demand help through teacher-staffed live help.

As a parent how can I monitor progress?

Parents are provided with login information so that they can see the progress of their student at any time. All parents have access to pacing and progress monitoring tools to help students stay on track.

How do I get technical help if needed?

Technical help is available for all students / parents who are experiencing any technical problems such as pages not loading or links not working. Here is the contact information: support@edmentum.com

The contact information is also provided in Maestro, our Student Information System, and can be easily accessed through your login.

How do we choose courses?

You will work with your guidance counselor and/or director of SJVS Andrew Pratley to choose courses in the virtual program.

What does the schedule look like for my child?

The primary reasons families are considering an virtual education are for flexibility and safety. The nice thing about virtual education is that you can structure learning around your schedule. You can plan on 6 hours of “school time” each day. There are times that there are required virtual live lessons, but all other time is flexible, as long as due dates are met within each course.

What about Band, Choir, and Orchestra?

There is not an virtual option for these courses. Currently the district is planning on allowing students to attend “face to face” school for that one class if you feel comfortable doing so.

Are special education students supported?

Yes. The special education staff and the virtual teachers work toward meeting the goals and objectives outlined in a student’s individual education plan.

- All virtual instructors are highly qualified and Michigan certified in their respective content area(s).
- Every instructor is trained to successfully deliver personalized instruction in the virtual classroom.
- Each educator is required to communicate daily with students and to actively monitor student learning and progress.
- Any time special needs are identified, the instructor works with the student to ensure needs are addressed.
- Every applicable IEP is reviewed and used by the instructor in planning for and providing appropriate accommodations, extended learning opportunities, or other adjustments as may be required in the plan(s).
- Our pedagogical approach to virtual learning includes both one-on-one individualized and small group instruction leveraging Zoom technology so teachers build a trusting relationship with students to engage and support them to persist as they struggle and conquer challenging content.