



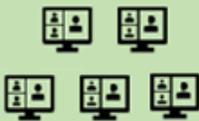
LOCS Middle Level Dragon Virtual

Dragon Virtual 2021 – 2022

Dragon Virtual, LOCS’s fully online educational offering, will continue for the 2021-2022 school year. Initially, the middle level virtual programming was designed in response to the COVID pandemic. After receiving a wealth of feedback from our students, parents, and staff we have determined that the structure of our program will continue as is with some subtle changes to better meet the needs of our students. As students make their scheduling preferences, it is essential that families are familiar with the configuration and characteristics of the Dragon Virtual 2021-2022 program.

Middle Level Dragon Virtual Characteristics

- **Instruction:** Core area content will be taught by LOCS staff in a live meeting format. Students will meet, daily, with core area content teachers. Electives will be asynchronous through Pearson Connexus, as opposed to Edgenuity, but will continue to be independent and supported by a LOCS mentor.
- **Curriculum:** The curriculum delivered in Dragon Virtual classes will closely parallel the corresponding in-person (traditional) core area courses. To accommodate learning in the virtual environment, lessons and activities will be adjusted appropriately. Electives will utilize the Pearson Connexus curriculum maps and content.
- **Core Course Structure:** Core area content classes will meet 5 times per week with live, virtual classroom sessions facilitated by their LOCS teacher. Students are expected to be in attendance and required to have their camera on while in attendance. Teachers will have the flexibility to use their virtual meeting time as necessary to best meet the needs of their students. Live meetings are not solely reserved for direct instruction and can incorporate a wide range of opportunities including group discussion, homework review, assessments, project help, and more.

	DRAGON VIRTUAL 2021-2022 	Fully Virtual
Class Meetings (Weekly – Core content only)	 20 (5 x 4 classes)	 0
Course Structure Independent work (asynchronous) vs. synchronous learning	 A balanced blend of teacher supported instruction and independent tasks / learning	 A LARGE volume of videos, task, projects, and assignments that are completed independently

- **Elective Course Structure:** Electives will be provided through our 3rd party partner, Pearson Connexus. The courses will be asynchronous (independent) and will not include live instruction. Middle level students will continue to receive support from LOCS teachers serving as mentors for the Connexus elective courses. Mentors will monitor student progress, answer student questions, and maintain open lines of communication with students and parents.
- **Student Schedule:** Student schedules will follow the in-person bell schedule to allow for our LOCS teachers to continue to provide live instruction to our Dragon Virtual students. An example schedule of what that may look like for a DV student is below.

Middle Level Dragon Virtual 2021-2022 – Student Schedule Sample:

*** STAR will not be a requirement of Dragon Virtual students***

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st Hour: 8:09-9:03 Social Studies	1 st Hour: 8:09-9:03 Social Studies	1 st Hour: 8:09-9:03 Social Studies	1 st Hour: 8:09-9:03 Social Studies	1 st Hour: 8:09-9:03 Social Studies
2 nd Hour: 9:07-10:01 Math	2 nd Hour: 9:07-10:01 Math	2 nd Hour: 9:07-10:01 Math	2 nd Hour: 9:07-10:01 Math	2 nd Hour: 9:07-10:01 Math
Lunch: 10:01- 10:31	Lunch: 10:01- 10:31	Lunch: 10:01- 10:31	Lunch: 10:01- 10:31	Lunch: 10:01- 10:31
<p>Asynchronous Elective Time: 10:35-12:27 7th grade in person students would typically attend electives during this time. DV students can take time away from the screen or work in their Connexus courses.</p>				
5 th Hour: 12:31-1:25 Science	5 th Hour: 12:31-1:25 Science	5 th Hour: 12:31-1:25 Science	5 th Hour: 12:31-1:25 Science	5 th Hour: 12:31-1:25 Science
6 th Hour: 1:29-2:25 ELA	6 th Hour: 1:29-2:25 ELA	6 th Hour: 1:29-2:25 ELA	6 th Hour: 1:29-2:25 ELA	6 th Hour: 1:29-2:25 ELA

DV Student Sample Schedule – A student’s live class meeting with their teacher will directly coincide with the middle level in-person schedule. Time is reserved for lunch, screen breaks, and asynchronous electives.

- **Student Support:** All assigned Connexus courses will offer weekly, scheduled office hours that will give students an opportunity for individualized support.
- **Special Education:** Students with an IEP or 504 will have a plan to address their individual needs within the virtual environment. Adjustments to schedules and added supports will be determined by these teams.
- **Athletics and Extracurriculars:** Students are eligible to participate in all after-school opportunities at their neighborhood school.

Dragon Virtual Considerations

The Dragon Virtual program offers a unique learning arrangement that balances elements of both remote learning and traditional virtual learning. Students must realize that virtual programming has advantages as well as disadvantages, which often correspond to the student’s learning characteristics and academic goals.

Although Dragon Virtual is less rigid than traditional schooling, it does not provide the full freedom or independence of traditional virtual learning. Rather, it balances enhanced flexibility with ample student support. Since scheduled classroom meetings occur throughout the week, the program is designed to meet the needs of our developing middle level learners and still empowers them to make independent decisions in their learning.

Middle level Dragon Virtual provides a different set of elective choices than in person. Specialized courses that are not able to be run in a virtual setting, like band and choir, have been removed as elective options and courses that are uniquely beneficial to virtual learners have been added. Assuming the program grows and develops, the ability to expand course offerings in the future will be further evaluated. Course offerings for Dragon Virtual are ultimately dependent upon student request; not all courses can be offered without sufficient student interest.

For students who have struggled in virtual learning during the remote learning phase, Dragon Virtual should not be considered a viable option. When making the decision, parents and students must consider both the structure of the program, as well as the characteristics of the learner.

Requirements for a student to be successful in Dragon Virtual – Is this a good choice for me?

- **Self-motivated / Independent Learner:** Even though students have ongoing teacher support, individuals must have the capacity to understand expectations, submit work, and request assistance when needed.
- **Time Management / Discipline:** To maximize the potential for learning, students are expected to attend all live, virtual class sessions. Recordings of class sessions will be made available for students with unexpected absences, and to allow for needed review of crucial concepts. In addition to class meetings, students must manage their time and keep pace with the independent learning tasks.
- **Computer Literate:** Virtual learning is dependent on the ability to navigate the digital environment proficiently.
- **Willingness to actively participate:** A passive presence is an ineffective means of learning, regardless of the mode of delivery. In virtual learning, students will be required to have their camera on and expected to share thoughts orally, or by submitting responses by other means. Asking questions are crucial in a virtual environment because the instructor will often have challenges determining if all students are understanding a concept.
- **Self-reflection:** The delivery of feedback is more limited without face-to-face interaction. Self-assessment and reflection are important whenever detailed feedback is provided by the teacher.
- **Personal “Fit”:** Dragon Virtual will offer a unique approach to learning. Our goal is to provide a learning environment that will be a better fit for some of our students. It is important that the program and your student fit mutually so that we can ensure a successful learning experience.