



SJSD Virtual Academy Student Expectations

The SJSD Virtual Academy is designed to provide rigorous, high-quality online instruction that includes support from Missouri certified teachers. Instructional expectations will include collaborative and independent learning opportunities delivered through Canvas, the SJSD's Learning Management System (LMS). Additional online tools are provided and accessible through Canvas, allowing students the opportunity to view, create, simulate, calculate, write, and submit instruction and assignments.

Video conferencing tools, primarily Zoom, will be used for interactions and instruction. Students should expect to navigate through Canvas instructional Modules before accessing assignments and assessments.

Students in the SJSD Virtual Academy have the responsibility as learners to engage in their learning and to maintain respectful, appropriate behavior. Students in the SJSD Virtual Academy are responsible for the same Code of Student Conduct as students in the in-person setting. This includes appropriate online behavior within the online learning environment and interactions within the online learning platforms.

Making the Choice to be an Online Learner

The most important consideration for your student in choosing between online and in-person learning is whether or not your student has the support and skills to be successful in an online learning environment. Students and their support systems should be aware that the requirements of online learning are similar to or exceed those of traditional in-person courses. Online instruction places significant responsibility on the student and his or her support system.

A student should plan to spend at least one hour each day, five days a week, on each course or subject area. In other words, at least five hours per week on each course. This is similar to the amount of time a student would spend in a course in an in-person school environment. Instructors in an online environment agree that students who are successful online have the following characteristics:

- **Good Time Management:** The student creates and maintains a study schedule throughout the semester and is disciplined in completing and submitting work.
- **Effective Communication:** The student asks for help, makes contact with other students and/or instructors online and describes any problems he/she is having with the learning materials. The student is able to advocate for himself/herself through contact with parents/guardians, support systems, counselors, and others who can provide assistance.
- **Independent Study Habits:** The student studies and completes assignments without direct supervision and maintains the self-discipline necessary to stay with a schedule.
- **Self-Motivation:** The student has a strong desire to learn skills, acquire knowledge and

fulfill assignments in online courses because of independent educational goals.

- **Academic Readiness:** The student has the basic reading, writing, math and computer literacy skills to succeed in an online course.
- **Technologically Prepared:** The student knows how to open, create and/or save a document, use various technology tools and identify file formats (e.g., doc, xls, pdf, jpg).

In addition to the general online learning characteristics listed above, the SJSJSD Virtual Academy expects parents and guardians to monitor the progress of their students--even those in high school--to ensure that they are making sufficient progress towards successful course completion.

While Virtual Academy instructors will be monitoring engagement and student grades, it is important that the home support systems of students are active in supporting, encouraging, and monitoring student success as well. Active communication between home and school are a cornerstone of student success, so we are proactive in our efforts to connect with our students' families and log these contacts as evidence of our efforts to meet our goals in supporting students.

The Stanford Research Institute examined the accessibility of online learning for students, especially those who were at risk of failure. Their report cautions that students who have failed face-to-face classes may have challenges that will affect their success in an online course as well. Many students do not realize that they will have to be even more accountable for their time, performance and productivity in an online class.

SJSJSD Virtual Academy Policy Compliance

Student Attendance, Discipline or Termination from the SJSJSD Virtual Academy.

- Compliance with the SJSJSD Board of Education Policies (provided in each online course in Canvas) -- The parties acknowledge that *student discipline or termination from the SJSJSD Virtual Academy* must be handled by the Member District in a legally appropriate manner and in accordance with State and Federal law.
- **Attendance and Completion** (SJSJSD Board of Education Policy IGCD) -- Students who enroll in district-sponsored virtual courses or MOCAP courses through the district are expected to actively participate in those courses with the goal of completing the course. If a student does not actively participate in a course or is not progressing in the course, the district may remove the student from the course and refuse to enroll the student in virtual courses in the future.

Students enrolled in virtual courses are expected to complete all course requirements in the time allotted for the course. Extensions of time to complete a virtual course will be permitted only in situations where completion of the course in the time allotted would be impossible due to factors beyond the student's control.

Students enrolled in a district-sponsored course or MOCAP course through the district will be considered in attendance for state aid purposes in accordance with the law. A completed virtual course or MOCAP course shall be counted as no less than 95 percent attendance for purposes of A+ Scholarship Program eligibility.