

WCS Online Program for Middle School Students

We know that considering an online learning environment for your child may not be something you have considered previously and may be overwhelming. This page will help you examine the various elements of the program for your child. Once parents have completed the Google Form questionnaire sent by your school principal the week of July 6th, we will walk this journey together as we plan your child's education for this fall.

Below are some topics to consider when evaluating this online option.

Teachers

WCS Online teachers will be a blend of school-specific teachers and teachers from other WCS schools. Once a family finalizes their choice for WCS Online for the fall semester, schedules will be updated and posted in Skyward prior to the start of the school year. In addition, teachers will contact families prior to the start of school.

Students

Online classes offer an alternative to traditional classes and can be beneficial for students for various reasons. However, not all students find online classes to be the best fit for them. Please note the younger the student, the more support is needed from parents at home. Students who are the most successful in online classes are good with time management, have self-discipline, have support from home, and are willing to advocate for themselves as age appropriate.

Parents

Know that parents play a great role in successful online learning. Depending on the age of the child, some students will be able to work independently through online modules and assigned work, while others will need more support. Below are some tips to help your child find success in this new learning environment.

- **Grades** - Check grades and progress regularly through Skyward.
- **Communication** - Communication with your child's teacher(s) will be similar to how you communicate with teachers in your school building. Our Online teachers will have a WCS email address and will be available to communicate with you on issues that arise with your child. In addition to your school's communication, you will receive regular WCS Online newsletters to highlight needed communication for your student and family while participating in the online program.
- **Support**– Even though the delivery method is different in an online environment, the intended outcome of student success is the same. Treat this environment as you would a traditional classroom environment. When your child is struggling, the teacher, school

principal, online director and both school and online support staffs are there to help you. Contact information will be shared upon final enrollment.

- **Learning Environment** - We encourage parents to become familiar with the various online platforms and applications within your child's account. This is the best way to stay updated on classroom work, progress, and achievement.

Orientation

Each family participating in WCS Online will have the opportunity to attend a virtual open house at the start of the school year. The open house will be divided by grade bands and Zoom links will be sent to parents/students via email after confirming registration for WCS Online.

Additionally, students will be scheduled to a short orientation course in Schoology that will include how to navigate Schoology, the Learning Management System for our online courses, access their course materials, submit assignments, and interact with your teachers and classmates. Teachers will also offer class-specific details and technology how-to guides/trainings within their courses.

Technology & Resources

WCS Online students will receive WCS Chromebooks that will be distributed for their use prior to the first day of school. The district has WiFi solutions for families who need support for the WCS Online Program. There is not a need to have additional technology at home, such as a printer or scanners, for this program. All materials will be distributed and returned digitally. Printed textbooks are rarely needed for online learning, but this need will be communicated based on the specific course selections of each child. Needed textbooks will be distributed at the same time as Chromebooks.

Enrollment, Grading, and Attendance

Students enrolled in the WCS Online Program are considered WCS students and will remain enrolled in their typically attended school with allowed participation in after school activities and extra-curriculars.

Once enrolled in WCS Online, daily participation is required. Daily attendance is noted through student participation in the online platform and in scheduled virtual meetings with the teacher(s). Student attendance will be required for online programming throughout all class and course levels.

Students will earn numeric and letter grades which will become part of their permanent academic record and official transcripts (for high school courses). All grading guidelines for WCS Online classes mirror the traditional courses taught in our school buildings. All WCS Board policies are followed related to progress reports and report cards. School grades will post from WCS Online to the child's traditional school.

Course Offerings

As with our traditional school course offerings, WCS Online will be able to offer a full schedule to students electing to have their classes fully online during the fall semester. The students will have instruction in Math, English, Social Studies, Science and Related Arts. However, we may not be able to offer every course offered at your student's school. We will determine the specific course offerings after evaluating the submitted requests.

For online teaching in WCS, all curriculum includes coursework approved and taught through an expansion of our current WCS Online Program, which covers the WCS Scope and Sequence aligned with the TN State Standards.

Special Education

Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) interested in having their schedule reviewed for the online learning program should follow the same procedural requirements as described above. Additionally, an IEP meeting will be scheduled for the IEP team to discuss what services can be provided and how the services will be provided for the student. IEP services will be provided following the IEP to the maximum extent possible.

Every attempt will be made at the middle school level for students to follow a schedule similar to their peers in the school building. Services will be determined by the IEP team to accommodate the specific learning needs of each student.

Sample Schedule - Grades 6-8

For online teaching this fall, all curriculum will be coursework approved and taught through an expansion of our current WCS Online Program.

Course offerings and times will vary based on course selection and grade level of students. The online program will include a blend of direct and non-direct instruction.

The notation of (OLP) on a student's schedule is for internal and state communication that the course is being delivered through the Online Learning Program.

Throughout the week there will be additional or scheduled opportunities for video conferencing with teachers, counseling meetings, tutoring, and/or academic supports with school staff.

Homeroom	7:50 AM – 7:55 AM	Community Meeting/Circle Time
1st Period	7:55 AM – 8:46 AM	ELA Grade 7 (OLP)
2nd Period	8:52 AM – 9:43 AM	Math Grade 7 (OLP)

3rd Period	9:49 AM – 10:34 AM	WIN Period (What I Need) Student specific instruction based on need
4th Period & 6th Grade Lunch	10:40 AM – 11:31 AM	Science Grade 7 (OLP)
5th Period & 8th Grade Lunch:	11:37 AM – 12:28 PM	Social Studies Grade 7 (OLP)
6th Period & 7th Grade Lunch:	12:32 PM – 1:23 PM	Related Arts Grade 7 (OLP)
7 th period	1:27 PM – 2:18 PM	Related Arts Grade 7 (OLP)
8 th period	2:18 PM – 2:57 PM	Study Focus (OLP)