



# AACPS Virtual Academy

## Overview

AACPS Virtual Academy is a fully virtual learning option that offers flexibility for students and families. Through a Learning Management System in Brightspace® and other web-based tools and

applications AACPS. Virtual Academy students will participate solely in online learning with varying degrees of synchronous and asynchronous engagement.

## Teaching and Learning

The Virtual Academy (VA), staffed by AACPS teachers, administrators, and support staff, is established for students in grades 3–12 who would benefit from a fully virtual-only learning solution. Parents and guardians will partner with the VA in supporting their student success. After committing to a full year (2022–2023) and registering for the VA, students will participate in blended learning which includes synchronous and asynchronous experiences in large and small groups.

All classes and courses are aligned to curriculum approved by AACPS and MSDE and will include time for guided and independent learning (synchronous and asynchronous) as well as opportunities for academic coaching sessions and tutoring, virtual co-curricular experiences in STEM and Arts & Humanities, and social emotional support. In addition, high school students may opt for up to two Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities (MVLO) courses asynchronously with coaching opportunities.

## Engagement and Connections

Recognition of the whole child is reflected in wellness, connection, and engagement activities, along with small group academic coaching sessions within the school day. We understand that establishing and maintaining relationships in distant or virtual learning is a critical ingredient to academic success. Synchronous opportunities will allow for collaboration in both academic and social emotional sessions as the Virtual Academy

will function without in-person class meetings, co-curricular clubs, or athletic student opportunities for the 2022–2023 school year.

### *Essential Virtual Academy Features*

- Maintaining staff/student relationships with a sense of belonging and connection
- Emphasizing respect, safety, and community
- Monitoring of student engagement and success

## Student Access

Enrollment is focused on family need and is limited to students in grades 3–12 who would benefit from a full virtual learning solution.

**The application window is January 18–February 4, 2022. The application link is posted at [www.aacps.org/virtualacademy](http://www.aacps.org/virtualacademy).**

**Families will receive results of the application on February 28, 2022. Any application received after February 4, 2022 will be placed on a waitlist to be review in August 2022.**

## Outcome

Through the enrollment in the VA, students will progress within their academic journey.

- Master skills and standards
- Connect as a community
- Enhance digital literacy

