Cyber Program

Log In. Learn On.

WCASD K-5 Cyber Program
Family Guide
2020-21

Table of Contents

Program Overview

The elementary cyber curriculum is designed to build foundational knowledge and skills in the areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. In addition to core subjects, students participate in Art, Health & Physical Education, Library, Music, and the Second Step curriculum for social-emotional learning. The WCASD K-5 Cyber program aspires to provide the same level of educational excellence that we are known for in the brick and mortar setting.

The cyber teacher presents the WCASD curriculum and elementary grade level content on a daily basis with support provided by the parent or guardian at home. The level of at-home support will vary based on age and skill level of the student but is necessary to help the child succeed in the cyber environment. At the start of the year, the teacher reviews the grade level schedule, establishes the routines, and reviews expectations for working in the online environment. The school day is a blend of synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded) instruction along with time for independent practice and teacher check-in. Over the course of the week, the student will have opportunities to work in small groups with peers and conference with teachers.

 The West Chester K-5 Cyber Program will:
- Provide a similar educational experience to that of the brick and mortar setting.
- Utilize the WCASD curriculum to ensure all students are receiving the same quality, rigorous instruction, taught by our WCASD educators.
- Use online learning tools to build a strong foundation for all learners.
- Help students grow academically, socially, and emotionally.
- Foster 21st century competencies such as critical thinking, communication, leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving.
- Provide scheduling flexibility for the students and families throughout the school year.
- Collaborate with families to provide a stellar educational experience for students.
- Excite students to learn through the use of innovative technology tools.

WCASD Website K-5 Cyber Resource & Link

The WCASD Cyber Website provides a lot of information about the K-5 Cyber Program, including frequently asked questions, the informational presentation recordings, and more. This is a great resource for you.

K-5 Curricular Trimester Overviews

The K-5 cyber teachers will instruct using the WCASD curriculum. Please visit the WCASD Curricular Trimester Overview document to view each grade level's academic content (Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies).

Contact Information

Cyber Administrator	Dr. Rebecca Eberly	reberly@wcasd.net	484.266.1602
Instructional Technology Coordinator	Mrs. Ashley Melanson	amelanson@wcasd.net	484.266.1097
Technology Support	Help Desk	helpdesk@wcasd.net	484.266.1052
Guidance Counselor	Your Child's Home School's Counselor		

Connection to Home School

The K-5 cyber students have the opportunity to participate in all of the learning activities and events at their home school. We encourage families to engage in home school activities and events based on their comfort level. Families will remain on the home school's distribution lists, so families will continue to receive communication from the home school, in addition to cyber communication.

Activities

The K-5 cyber students are able to partake in home school learning activities, such as band, orchestra, chorus, after school sports, and so on.

Similar to brick and mortar, 3rd grade students can opt to play a stringed instrument. 4th and 5th grade students can participate in orchestra, band, and/or chorus. The students playing an instrument will receive their lessons virtually from their homeschool orchestra or band director. If the student would like to participate in an ensemble, he/she can do so at the home school.

In grades K–5, students will require support from the Learning Coach (parent, guardian, adult facilitator) at home, in the online classroom. The Learning Coach partners with the cyber teacher to help provide elementary students in the WC K-5 cyber program with the structure by establishing and managing the daily routine.

Device

All cyber students will receive an iPad, and students in grades 3-5 will also receive a keyboard. You will pick up your cyber student's device at your child's home school.

Materials

The district is organizing learning tool kits filled with curricular materials, such as workbooks and manipulatives. In addition to the curricular materials provided, your child will utilize virtual manipulatives and reading books through online resources. You will also pick up your cyber student's learning tool kits (materials) at your child's home school. Please wait for communication from your home school principal/main office.

Learning Management Systems

Our K-2 cyber students will utilize Seesaw, and our 3-5 students will utilize Schoology as their main platform for learning.

Compared to the Spring 2020 emergency remote learning, Seesaw has experienced many updates. The system now interfaces more similarly to a true learning management system.

We will provide tutorial videos for our families and students to engage in together to learn all of the features within the two management systems.

Technology Help

Please visit your child's Schoology Parent Backpack or your child's Seesaw Homeroom folder for video tutorials.

If you are having trouble with your district-issued device, please contact the Help Desk via email or phone for assistance. Additionally, you can ask your child's cyber teacher for assistance.

Special Education and Related Services

Special Education students who participate in the WC K-5 Cyber Program must discuss cyber education at an IEP meeting where the team will determine the support needed to provide access to the student's program of study. The student's IEP will be provided to the cyber teachers who will ensure compliance with all required modifications and accommodations. The students will continue to have a WCASD case manager.

Gifted Support Program

In the WC K-5 Cyber Program, gifted learners will receive their services (enrichment, math replacement, ELA replacement) per their GIEPs. At this time, our current GRTs at the ten elementary buildings will provide the services to our gifted learners.

English Language Development Services

All English Language learners will receive the necessary support based on their English Language Proficiency Levels. We have designated ELD teacher support based on schedules. Our current WCASD ELD teachers will provide the English language classes and will collaborate with teachers to provide the appropriate support to help our ELs be successful in the cyber environment.

Reading Support

If your child was receiving reading support before the emergency closure, he/she will receive reading support from our district reading specialists. For our cyber program, we will have two designated reading specialists to provide the small group, targeted reading instruction based on student needs.

Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning

Our cyber program will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences. Our cyber teachers will prepare the learning activities and plan for the upcoming week by the Friday before. This will allow parents the flexibility to complete some of the work over the weekend or whenever it meets each family's needs. Visit the draft cyber schedules.

Our cyber teachers will minimally provide the following **synchronous learning**:
- Class Meeting daily to build a strong, positive learning community and establish relationships with all students. Our teachers will use the pro-social skills program, Second Step, to encourage appropriate social skills instruction in each grade level.
- Small group, differentiated instruction throughout the course of the week. Each student can expect to participate in approximately 2-4 small group, synchronous lessons with the teacher each week.
- Either a daily synchronous math or ELA lesson.
- All synchronous lessons will be recorded and posted for families to view later, if needed.

Our cyber teachers will also provide the following:
- Synchronous or asynchronous science and social studies lessons.
- Synchronous or asynchronous Special Area classes.
- Asynchronous learning activities (on Seesaw or Schoology) to be completed by the end of the week.

Special Area Classes

WC K-5 Cyber students will receive special area lessons, mostly asynchronous, to engage in throughout the week. You can expect one Special Area lesson per school day. Our special area classes are Library, Health/Physical Education, Art, and Music. This will be pass/fail.

Grades/Report Cards

Similar to the elementary brick and mortar, students will receive report cards each trimester.
In K-2, cyber students will receive standards-based report cards, similar to the brick and mortar setting.
In 3-5, cyber students will receive traditional letter grades, similar to the brick and mortar setting.
In special area classes, our K-5 cyber students will receive a Pass/Fail each trimester.

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

Students in the WC Cyber Program are still required to take state-mandated tests, such as the PSSAs. Arrangements to take these exams will be made in conjunction with the home school counselor and principal.

Attendance

At the end of the week, the cyber teacher will mark students present for the entire week based on a combination of their work completion and engagement. We understand that some families will not be able to attend the synchronous lessons. All synchronous lessons will be recorded and posted for families to view at their convenience. We do encourage families to take advantage of the synchronous lessons as much as possible, particularly the small group, differentiated instruction as teachers will be able to provide targeted instruction based on each child's strengths and needs.

Cyber Absence Procedures

Teachers will mark students' attendance at the end of the week for each school day. As a result of taking attendance on Friday, you do not have to call your child off each day officially; however, if your child is not feeling well or is not able to engage in the synchronous learning activities, we ask that you email your child's teacher. It is important that the cyber teacher stays in close contact with our Learning Coaches/families about the student's ability to attend the synchronous lessons and engage in learning activities. If your child is absent, please provide a note within three days of the absence listing the reason. Excuse notes may be emailed, but we need a signature with the email. Our cyber teachers will forward the excuse notes to your child's home school secretary.

If your family is taking a vacation, please complete the [cyber vacation form](#) and email it to the cyber administrator, Dr. Rebecca Eberly (reberly@wcasd.net)

School Calendar

Students in the WC K-5 Cyber Program will follow the [WCASD school calendar](#), including conferences, vacations, holidays, and so on.

Learning Coach Role and Student Expectation

Because some of the elementary students' work is done off-line through reading and writing, a parent or other trusted adult plays a vital role in the student's learning. In the WC K-5 Cyber Program, the person who supports the child's education at home is referred to as the "Learning Coach."

One of the key components of a successful online experience is good communication. The students and parents/guardians should immediately contact the online teachers and discuss concerns.

The Learning Coach is responsible for all of the academic aspects of the student's virtual learning program that contribute to a student's success, including but not limited to

- viewing Parent Portal as needed to check attendance and grades (3-5).
- establishing an appropriate location for learning.
- helping students to establish a daily routine for working on the lessons for their subject.
- assisting with lessons.
- keeping students motivated.
- monitoring student comprehension and grades.
- communicating frequently with the teachers.
- encouraging students to complete assignments and to turn in work.
- notifying the cyber teacher when the student is struggling or experiencing academic or personal issues that might inhibit academic achievement.
- Communicating, as needed, with the K-5 Cyber Administrator.