



WCPSS Virtual Academy

October 25, 2021
Student Achievement Committee





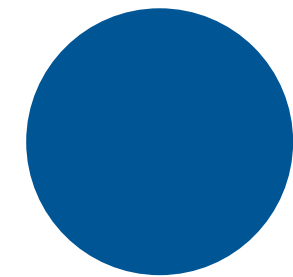
Today's Agenda & Outcomes



WCPSS Virtual Academy

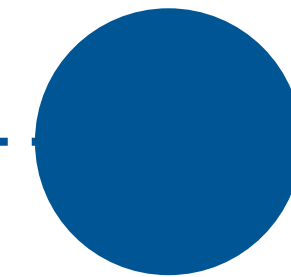
Where We've Been

Timeline



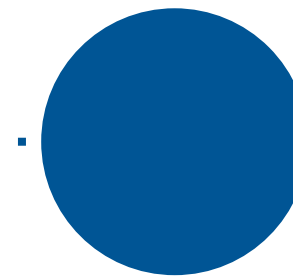
Spring 2021

- Developed Implementation and Communication Plan
- Conducted Community Open House
- Launched Registration
- Analyzed and Shared Registration Data



Summer 2021

- Established a District Supported VA Structure based on Enrollment
- Consulted with School Stakeholders to Build a Master Schedule for Each Level
- Launched VA Staffing Campaign
- Developed Professional Learning Opportunities and VA Orientations



Fall 2021

- Continue Staffing Efforts to Support Student and School Needs
- Collaborate with the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) to Support Scheduling
- Monitoring Implementation for Ongoing Staff and Student Support
- Preparation and Communication for Spring Semester



Fall Registration

Where We Are

Current Student Enrollment

Elementary: 4,856

Middle: 2,444

High: 2,810

TOTAL 10,110





Successes & Challenges

Where We Are

Successes

- Teacher Orientation - 884 Teachers Completed the Orientation
- Student and Family Orientations
- Synchronous and Asynchronous Professional Learning Opportunities
 - 1,169 Teachers Completed a District-Provided Canvas Training Opportunity
 - 1,444 Teachers Complete Training or Consultations Related to Canvas with a Digital Learning Coordinator.
 - 2,613 Total Teacher Participation in Canvas Professional Learning
- Innovation and Ingenuity of our Teachers and Principals
- Access to Curriculum and Instruction Resources and Guidance



Successes & Challenges

Where We Are

Challenges

- Hiring and Retaining Staff
- Master Scheduling
- Impact of Responding to Return to In-person Instruction Requests
- Opportunity Costs and Impact on Conducting Core Business
- Ongoing Uncertainty and Changing Circumstances
- Ensuring Families and Students are Connected to the School Community in the District Supported Model.

A Teacher's Perspective

Where We Are

Paul Cancellieri

Virtual Academy
Science Teacher

Rolesville Middle School



ROLESVILLE
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Yes, you can!

Teachers Perspectives

Where We Are

“In my experience as a VA teacher, I have been amazed with how successful some of my students are using technology to access their education that is resulting in major academic and functional growth. Conversely, other students have experience more barriers using technology than they normally might have in a physical classroom. The technology skills needed to access and learn virtually are still difficult for students who cognitive functioning isn't equipped to process abstract concepts.”

- VA Special Programs,
Extended Content Teacher

“The structure of the Virtual Academy has proven to be a challenge for teachers this year. I have students from 6 schools which means that I have 6 different PowerSchool courses. It is very time consuming when I have to toggle between 6 separate PS courses to enter grades, attendance, comments, etc.”

- Elementary VA Teacher

“My students in the VA are learning a lot. We are able to get right down to the nitty gritty of the content with little or no distractions. I am able to teach more content in a shorter amount of time, thus affording my students the opportunity to learn at their own pace.”

- High School Spanish VA Teacher

“The biggest challenge is that many Special Education teachers gave up their planning period to teach in the Virtual Academy. As a result, I am planning lessons, progress monitoring, communicating with CORE teachers, and completing tasks outside of the school day. It has been a challenge to support students from multiple schools as service deliveries are written differently from school to school; this has created confusion on how to implement goals.”

- VA Special Education Teacher

Student & Parent Perspectives

Where We Are

"A few of my classes at the beginning of the semester were moved to NCVPS. At first, I was hesitant but I have really enjoyed the flexibility that I have with my schedule. The NCVPS courses have allowed me to continue to work a part-time job throughout the week."

-11th Grade WCPSS Student

"The increase of live instruction time this year has increased the amount of screen time my student has experienced. As a result, we are having to build in intentional break times throughout the school day.

-WCPSS Parent

"I love that I am in class with students from other schools this year. I have made connections with so many people from across the school district that would not have been possible without the Virtual Academy. I also love my teachers."

- 6th Grade WCPSS student

"My special education student has been placed in classes above his grade level because of the lack of course offerings in the Virtual Academy. As a result, he is unable to participate in class.. He is struggling and increasingly frustrated. Having teachers from multiple schools has prevented us from receiving the necessary support for my student."

-WCPSS Parent



2021-2022 Second Semester Context

What's Ahead

WCPSS Virtual Academy Statement of Understanding

The WCPSS Virtual Academy provides students an opportunity to participate in virtual learning. Assignment to the Virtual Academy requires a special commitment of time and effort from the students and their parents/guardians. All instruction and services will be delivered virtually. This commitment requires that, upon assignment to the WCPSS Virtual Academy, you agree to keep your child in the program for at least one full school year.

Communication to Families

The district will reassess the required one year commitment at the semester break if vaccines for children are widely available.

2021-2022 Second Semester Factors & Considerations

What's Ahead

- Vaccine approval timeline for 5-11 year olds.
- Staffing plans
- Virtual Academy and In-Person student schedules
- Instructional continuity for Virtual Academy and In-Person students
- Infrastructures (i.e., resource allocation, transportation, Curbside Child Nutrition Services, etc.)
- Capacity to reorganize and restructure mid-year
- Decision-making timeline to ensure ample time to support implementation



Beyond 2021-2022 - Senate Bill 654

What's Ahead

SECTION 3B.(c) No public school unit shall use virtual instruction to satisfy the minimum required number of instructional days or hours after June 30, 2022, without express authorization from the General Assembly, except for local school administrative units that were assigned a school code to operate a school with virtual instruction as the primary means of instruction as of May 1, 2021.



Questions and Dialogue

WHAT   
STARTS
 HERE
CHANGES
 EVERYTHING.