

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How is Montgomery Virtual Academy different from other cyber schools?**

First and foremost, you get to remain a Montgomery student! When you graduate, you will graduate with a Montgomery diploma. Because you're a Montgomery student, you'll have access to a rigorous curriculum and be able to participate in sports and clubs alongside students in the traditional setting.

## **Is there any cost to attending the Montgomery Virtual Academy?**

There is no cost to attend the Virtual Academy for families within the Montgomery Area School District. You will, however, need to ensure that your student has access to reliable internet. The Montgomery School District will provide students with any required textbooks and/or materials as well as a Chromebook for accessing our Virtual Academy. You may incur a fee to replace any items lost or damaged.

## **Who can attend the Virtual Academy?**

All students residing within the Montgomery Area School District are eligible to attend the Virtual Academy.

## **My child has special needs. Is the Virtual Academy right for them?**

As every child's needs are unique, it is important to discuss the best placement for your child. Please contact your child's building principal to discuss further.

## **Can Virtual Academy students join Montgomery sports teams and participate in extracurricular activities?**

Yes! You are a Montgomery student and you can participate in any of our sports, clubs, band, Virtuoso, etc.!

## **Can Virtual Academy students participate in Montgomery school events like dances?**

Yes! You may attend the same school dances that your grade level peers can attend.

## **Does my student have to be online at specific times?**

Sometimes. There is a specific time that your student will have to check in with their homeroom teacher each day. This is typically a brief check-in but once a week during this time your child's teacher will review their learning plan with them. This daily check-in is one measure used for attendance purposes so your student *must* log into the Virtual Academy platform and attend "homeroom". However, as they complete their coursework and assessments, there is not a specific time that students are required to be online and working.

## **Can students work at their own pace?**

Sort of. Students' coursework will be broken down into weekly modules that begin on Mondays. Assignments should be completed by the following Sunday. So while you can work at your own pace within that week, all assignments for the module are required to be completed and submitted by the end of that week.

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## **What is a learning coach?**

A "Learning Coach" is an adult who helps the student to stay on task. The learning coach should know how to access the Virtual Academy platform, communicate with teacher(s), and check the student's progress and gradebook regularly to make sure they are staying on pace. *Especially at grades 5 and below, it is essential that the learning coach works next to the student throughout the day.*

## **Is Virtual Academy year-round?**

Virtual Academy will follow the Montgomery Area School District's calendar. That means if the school building is closed for a holiday break, the Virtual Academy will also be closed. Your student may choose to log in and do work, but they are not required to do so on these days. The first and last day of school will be the same for all Montgomery students whether they are traditional or virtual.

## **What if I still have questions about Virtual Academy?**

Reach out to Kelly Concini, our Supervisor of Montgomery Virtual Academy via email ([kconcini@montasd.org](mailto:kconcini@montasd.org)) or via phone: 570-547-1608, ext. 1146