A² Virtual+

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

a2virtual.org

Online courses are an option available to students at the request of their parents. Due to the fact that online courses differ in structure it is imperative that students and parents take the interactive online learner readiness rubric that is found on the A2 Virtual+ website registration page or found under the Resources tab, Course Provider Overviews. Online classes do not have a teacher that interacts with the student on a daily basis. As written in the Readiness Rubric: Students must be able to work independently and should be able to compete routine assignments and tests without real time feedback from teachers. If a student's learning style and ability does not allow for independent learning and testing, then an online class may not be the right option.

Students with Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) will continue to receive Teacher Consultant (TC) support equal to what is received with a traditional classroom experience. Students with IEPs and 504 plans receive accommodations that can be supported by the computer and/or through the A2 Virtual+ program. The following document will give a general description of accommodations that are supported through online learning. It is highly recommended that the parent of a student with an IEP or 504 Plan contact the appropriate person at their home school to reconvene a meeting to write a plan specifically for online learning with the administrator of A2Virtual+ present to contribute.

With the above being said, online learning has proven successful with many special education students. The flexibility of time, differentiation, ability to learn in a non-distracting environment, and extended testing time is often what is needed for students.

Please review the attached chart to help determine if online learning is right for your child. Although the chart is extensive, it is not inclusive. Again, setting up a meeting with your TC or 504 coordinator and the Principal of A2 Virtual+ before class begins is the best way to determine the right accommodations for online learning.   The best way to contact the Principal of A2 Virtual+, Cindy Leaman, is at leamanc@aaps.k12.mi.us. Additionally, a message can be left at the office if you call 734-997-1208, ext. 2.

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Individualized Learning Plan and 504 Plan Suggested Accommodations

The following list is not intended to be exclusive but suggestive so that parents can make an informed decision as to whether online learning is appropriate for their child. Contact your building representative and the Principal of A2 Virtual+ to schedule a meeting to review your plan and make any necessary adjustments regarding online learning for your child. All Accommodations must be written into 504 plans before the start of a term for them to used by course instructors. Do know that it may take a couple weeks to get the 504 to appropriate teacher as some of our teachers work outside of the district. The sooner we have a copy of the IEP/504 the quicker the accommodations will be implemented. We encourage the sharing of an IEP/504 at registration if possible.

Generally written accommodation on student plan	How online learning can address the accommodation
Assigned to co-taught class	There are no co-taught online classes. However, an open lab is available for students to drop in on Tuesday Night at Community High School. Prearrangement to ensure a TC is available to assist a student is recommended. The student's assigned TC should be working closely with the online student to assure that there is adequate progress and that all accommodations are met.
Preferential seating	Students learn in front of a computer and the family chooses the learning environment.
Visual support	Some of the online courses (ex. Edgenuity) have many videos for the student to watch. These videos may be replayed multiple times allowing the student to take notes and work at his/her own pace.
Teacher and guided notes	Many, but not all courses, provide teacher or guide notes. If this is a critical component consult with the A2V office for help in choosing the most appropriate course.
Extended time on assignments	Extended time does not mean extended term. All courses have a set end date. However, there are no steadfast, unwavering assignment due dates in regular (non-AP) courses. Students are not penalized for turning in work past the suggested

	due date as long as it is within the course term timeframe. Students complete a pacing guide to help them determine where they should be in a course but when an assignment is turned in is the decision of the student. Students need to keep in mind that they need to produce and turn in assignments on a regular basis so they don't fall behind in the course.
Extended quiz/test time	All quizzes and tests can be taken over an extended time period. Students are required to take two tests proctored during the term. The proctoring window is three hours. If a student comes at the beginning of the proctoring session s/he will have three hours. Coming later into the testing session will reduce the time allowed. Each proctoring window of time will offer over two-dozen different locations, days, and time sessions to choose from when determining a proctoring time. Students also can attend the morning drop-in center held on Tuesdays at Balas from 7:00-9:00 am or at Community High School on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 pm. All scheduled proctoring sessions are listed in advance on the a2virtual.org website under the Current Students tab. If a student is not able to attend any of the listed session s/he can contact the building liaison for an appointment to be proctored.
Use of Computer for assignments	All work is done on the computer.
Use of notes/notecards	Use of note/notecards is always an option.
Larger print materials	Since work is done on a computer font size can always be adjusted. Students can also use the zoom feature.
Hearing impaired	Headsets can be utilized. Talk-to-text can be used with some courses. Checking out the ability of a course to easily use this function is recommended before registering for a class.
Frequent breaks	Work is done at student's own pace. Students can take a break whenever needed.
Retake of quizzes or tests	Students have an opportunity to retake quizzes or tests. Most online courses give a grade on total work completed. It is recommended that students complete all work in a course first and then go back, review, and retake any test or quiz

	for an improved grade. Doing very well on a small number of quizzes and tests but not completing all work in the courses will not give the student a passing grade.
Resubmission of assignments	Student should contact mentor and ask that the mentor make this request on behalf of student. Online courses look for mastery learning and instructors will accommodate this when necessary. The general rule is that only assignments, which receive below a "C", can be redone.
Reduced assignments or workload	This needs to be reviewed on an individual basis. Many times assignments cannot be reduced due to material either being new or necessary for future work. To initiate this conversation, contact the mentor or A2 Virtual+ Principal as soon as the course begins.
Alternative setting for tests	Many tests are taken at the student's discretion of time and place. If the proctored test session is too distracting, the student can request an appointment for an individual test session with his/her mentor.
Frequent prompts and checks for understanding	Online curriculum often quizzes students after small segments of work. If the student does not do well, the computer will suggest that the student review the chapter, video, etc. and offer a chance to retake the quiz. Some courses offer more prompts than others. Talk to the A2 Virtual+ office for course suggestions if this is a critical item for the student before registering for a class. Prompts come from the computer and are not face-to-face encounters.
Retake only on areas not mastered by student	Online courses cannot single out questions. If a student wishes to retake, they must retake the full assignment/quiz/test.
Modified texts or alternative books	Online programs do not have alternative books or modified text. All texts and material is embedded in the course. Courses do offer a variety of learning systems. There is an option with one of our learning systems to modify the text level. Some courses are more text oriented and others may be more audio-visual. We recommend that the parent and student talk to the administrator or building liaison at A2Virtual+ before registering.

Chunking of information into smaller segments with tentative due dates	Online classes allow students to do small amounts of work at a time. Students do need to be aware that this does not reduce the overall work but will allow a student to break up the work into small segments so that several segments can be accomplished over a longer period of time with breaks.
Advanced notice of large assignments and tests	Online courses are transparent; in that, all the course requirements and suggested due dates are given at the beginning of the course.
Teacher frequently checks for comprehension of test directions, tests, questions, test format, assignment, and/or understanding of curriculum	By nature, online courses are independent learning experiences chosen as an alternative by the family. Students are not taught by a live teacher but rather by computer-generated instruction. Teachers are not on demand and rarely interact with a student in a one-to-one setting. Arrangements can be made to have a mentor proctor exams. Also, students can attend the night options lab for help or make individual appointments with a mentor. Please keep in mind that students that require weekly, or more frequent, contact with a mentor or teacher may not be well suited for an online course, which can lead to frustration. AAPS requires students to communicate weekly with their mentor through Moodle. Students are taught how to use Moddle during the mandatory orientation. Students are also asked to sign up for "Remind" so that weekly reminder texts will be sent to them.
Provide oral retakes of quizzes/tests	Online classes are computer taught. Students can be provided with a dragon device that will translate the student's answers to be submitted to the instructor. The mentor for a course may not be high qualified and therefore would not be able to assess answers given orally for accuracy. However, they can read the questions out loud to the student. An appointment is necessary to ensure enough time. The teacher of record may not be local and setting up an appointment for an oral retake, might be possible on occasion, but will require advanced scheduling.
Use of Calculator	Many of the math programs have online calculator options. Student may also bring a personal calculator for use.

Use of I-pod or other music while learning	Much of the course work is done outside of school and the use of music is allowed even without headphones.
Help with organization	Parents and/or a TC, if assigned to the student, will support help with organization. Classes are inherently organized. Students can follow a logical format. Once assignments are completed they are directly submitted for grading to the instructor. Students are also asked to sign up for "Remind" so that weekly reminder texts will be sent to them. Mentors can also assist with organization in addition to the help provided by parent and TC.

- Contact A2Virtual+ before registration but no later than the first week of the term if there are any questions.
- Reconvene IEP/504 if specific online accommodations are needed. Meeting will be scheduled at home building but including the A2Virtual+ principal is required to assure that accommodations are properly noted and communicated.
- Make sure that A2Virtual+ has a copy of your 504/IEP accommodations page when registering. You may also send a copy to leamanc@aaps.k12.mi.us.
- Both parent and student must attend a mandatory orientation meeting. Schedule of orientations (which occur during first week of term) can be found on the website.
- Online classes are an alternative to traditional classrooms. We firmly believe all students should take at least one online class during their high school career. However, online classes require maturity, independence, and time management skills, please help us ensure that your child is ready to be an online learner.
- A2Virtual+ is a program of AAPS, Special Education support will come from the student's home building.