

FAQ – SLPS Elementary Virtual Schools



1. What grades are offered through SLPS Elementary Virtual School?

2007-2008 school year
K-3
2008-2009 school year
K-8

2. Who can enroll in the program?

The SLPS Virtual School is available for grades K-8. Students living within the St. Louis Public School district, as well as Affton, Bayless, Brentwood, Clayton, Hancock Place, Kirkwood, Ladue, Lindbergh, Mehlville, Parkway, Pattonville, Ritenour, Rockwood, Valley Park, and Webster Groves are eligible for enrollment.

3. Are there face to face meetings?

All elementary virtual students are required to meet 1-2 full days (8 a.m. – 3:13 p.m.) per week face to face with the virtual teachers at the SLPS Elementary Virtual Learning Center located on the lower level of Henry Downtown Academy Elementary School, 1220 N. 10th Street.

4. Are textbooks and other instructional materials provided?

Yes, all textbooks and instructional materials are provided.

5. Do children work at their own pace?

The virtual school programs are usually self-paced and flexible within the parameters specified by state law.

6. Does there need to be a computer/software, printer/fax and internet access in the home?

Students need to have access to a computer, printer/fax, phone, email and the internet access in the home.

7. Is the SLPS elementary virtual school accredited?

K¹² Inc. is a CITA-accredited corporation meeting the highest standards of educational management. The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA) is a global leader in accreditation, dedicated to advancing the quality of education through accreditation. Composed of the premier American educational accrediting agencies, CITA accredits more than 30,000 public and private educational institutions in 100 countries, touching more than 17 million students.

8. What computer skills are required?

Use of the computer is an important part of the program, but in the early grades it is mostly the parent/responsible adult who interacts with the computer.

9. How much time do students spend on the computer?

The students should spend no more than 20-25 percent of their time on the computer in the early grades. Virtual schools use a unique multimedia approach that also includes book, workbooks and instructional materials.

10. What tests are required of this program?

In addition to the K-12 lesson, unit and semester assessments, students take required formal assessments through the district and the state.

11. Is curriculum provided for special needs children?

Depending on the IEP, the curriculum can be tailored to meet specific needs. The SLPS Virtual School accepts students with IEP of less than 400 minutes of additional instructional support per week.

12. Will this program intrude into students' homes?

There are no home visits as part of the program and there are no cameras or any other intrusions into the homes of students. Teachers conference with parents and students once a week.



13. How much time do students spend on the computer?

We expect that students will spend no more than 20–30 percent of their time on the computer in the early grades. We believe in a balanced approach toward education. Computers help us provide you with effective assessment, planning, and time-management tools. Computers also act as powerful teaching tools that can motivate, stimulate, and inform children about the world around them. They do not, however, replace a solid education. Rather, they help facilitate one. That's why we use a unique multimedia approach that also includes a great deal of old-fashioned books, workbooks, and instructional materials.

14. What do children learn in the Music program?

The K¹² Music program provides comprehensive lessons to help your child learn the basics of music and develop an appreciation for great music from diverse traditions. Our lessons assume that neither you nor your child has prior training in singing or reading music. As you participate in these activities you and your child will learn and have fun together.

15. What do children learn in the Language Arts/English program?

Phonics and Handwriting. Developed for students in kindergarten and first grade, the Phonics course gives you the tools you need to help your child take the first steps toward fluency, competence, and confidence in reading, writing, and spelling. The Handwriting Without Tears program helps your child develop handwriting skills at a gentle and reasonable pace.

Literature and Language Skills. Structured lessons on readiness, language, and literature help develop comprehension skills, build vocabulary, and open the doors to a wide range of imaginative experience. We focus on classic literature—folktales, fairy tales, fables, and poetry—with an emphasis on works that embody exemplary virtues, as well as a generous variety of titles for fun reading.

16. What role do computers play in the K¹² curriculum?

Generally, children in grades K–5 do about 20-30 percent of the work online. They do much of the work offline—reading books, solving math problems on paper, drawing, and conducting science experiments. Middle and high school students have more refined reading skills, so instruction and activities involve increased computer use, according to educational standards. However, offline work will always be essential.

17. What subjects does K¹² offer?

K¹² offers the following subjects:

- Language Arts/English
- Math
- History
- Science
- Art
- Music



18. What are your educational standards?

The K¹² team developed a program with extremely high standards. Our comprehensive program is designed to exceed national and state educational standards. Our goal is to help you provide an education that is comparable or superior to that provided by the nation's best public and private schools.

19. How does the program teach reading?

K¹² has developed a proprietary PhonicsWorks reading program, designed to help young students take those important first steps toward becoming a skilled reader. PhonicsWorks provides easy-to-follow online lessons, and supplemental materials, including a training video, a magnetized letter-tile kit, and illustrated books. PhonicsWorks is designed to help your child recognize the relationship between letters and sounds; blend sounds represented by letters into words; read and spell longer, unfamiliar words by breaking them into syllables; and read *sight words*.

20. What do children learn in the Math program?

The K¹² Math program offers a carefully structured sequence of lessons designed to help students make steady progress from fundamental skills to more complex mathematical concepts. The program takes an active, multisensory, hands-on approach, to ensure that children understand the concrete realities that underlie mathematical concepts (e.g., shape, length, quantity). Regular practice, review, and assessment ensure mastery of basic skills; online games and animations help illustrate concepts and motivate and instruct children.

21. What is the relationship of K¹² with Core Knowledge Foundation?

The content recommended in the Core Knowledge Sequence is one major foundation of the K¹² curriculum. K¹² is also built upon analysis and comparison of state standards; curricular recommendations of prominent professional organizations (such as the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Council for History Education); and extensive research into the cognitive psychology behind effective learning, with a focus on the structure of knowledge in each academic discipline, as well as common misconceptions that block effective learning.

One distinction should be made: While the Core Knowledge Foundation provides curricular guidelines, K¹² goes much further by providing a fully developed and comprehensive curriculum, including complete lesson plans and assessments for a 180-day school year, interactive online lessons with teaching aids, and a comprehensive array of offline materials (books, workbooks, lab supplies, art supplies, maps, math manipulatives, and more).

22. What do children learn in the Art program?

In the K¹² Art program children make fun projects while learning about great art and artists. Focusing on the basics of line, shape, color, pattern, and texture, children will draw, paint, work with clay, and do other activities to learn how artists design their works. Children will explore different forms and styles of art—

painting and sculpture, portraits and landscapes, realistic and abstract—while becoming familiar with important works of art from diverse times and places.