



2021-2022 Blended & Virtual Learning Plan

The St. Louis Public School District embarks upon the 21-22 school year as a resilient, scholar-centered organization. Based on guidance and recommendations from the St. Louis City Health Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, we are excited to return to fully in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. As we navigate the year ahead, still amid the Covid-19 Pandemic, we maintain our rigorous health and safety standards. The District's 2021-2022 Reopening Plan recognizes there will be unique situations that require responsiveness and flexibility to mitigate the impact a classroom, school or district closure may have on teaching and learning. In the event of a quarantine or closure, we stand ready to provide uninterrupted quality and effective learning and teaching.

Reimagining education – preparing for the year ahead...

As we transition back to in-person instruction in a one-to-one learning environment and reimagine what “school” looks like, how can we create and sustain a culture where educators and learners are empowered to use technology in innovative ways to transform learning and teaching? The scholars of St. Louis Public Schools are digital learners of the 21st century and our role as facilitators of learning and teaching must ensure a more equitable and innovative approach to instruction. This document serves as a guide to outline expectations and provide resources to support educators in implementing Blended Learning instructional practices and creating learning environments in which we stand ready to pivot to virtual instruction if and when necessary.

*“People keep saying, ‘We just need to get back to normal.’
Going back to normal for the kids who are most
vulnerable is not a solution, because normal was where
the problem was.”*

Gloria Ladson Billings

Instructional Framework

For the 2021-2022 academic school year, St. Louis Public Schools will continue to implement **Blended Learning** as the core instructional framework. Blended learning is any formal education program in which a scholar learns at least in part through online learning, with some element of scholar control over time, place, path, and/or pace. Blended Learning is an innovative instructional platform ideal for one-to-one learning environments and supports the shift to standards-based instruction and grading practices.

Rationale for Blended Learning:

- Blended Learning supports scholar-centered learning in a flexible environment and provides cohesive learning experiences that can be tailored for in-person learning, virtual learning, or a combination of both. This model ensures high-quality instructional content is available regardless of the physical setting of learning.
- All content for Blended Learning is available digitally, making this an ideal choice to ensure social distancing in schools, and to support intermittent virtual learners. Additionally, in the event of another district or school closure, Blended Learning creates uninterrupted, continuous learning for scholars.

Expectations & Accountability Metrics to Support Blended Learning (2021-2022)

- Teachers/classrooms should maintain a daily schedule. Updated course/classroom schedules should be posted and maintained building wide.
- All teachers of record will be facilitators of standards-based instruction utilizing a Blended Learning framework. Teachers will continue to utilize the [Blended Learning Lesson Design tool](#) to plan instruction.
- All teachers of record are required to maintain an online classroom presence utilizing the district platform **Microsoft Teams**. Assignments, digital files, and the Class Notebook should always be up to date. All TEAMS classes and online curriculum-based learning platforms (i.e. Savvas Realize) should be set up, and scholars should have their logins no later than August 27, 2021. ([Click for Teams tutorials.](#))
- All assignments, instructions, and resources for the entire week of instruction should be posted/uploaded no later than the start of the school day, Monday morning of each week.
- All teachers must have an up-to-date webpage. Webpages MUST minimally include:
 - Create a “meet the teacher” page (welcome video is optional, but highly recommended)
 - Up-to-date daily/weekly class schedule classroom expectations
 - Link to the teachers/classroom Microsoft Teams page under the assignments tab
 - Links to curriculum resources and online textbooks
 - Information on how to contact the teacher (email, Class Dojo, Remind etc.)
- All teachers of record are required to maintain an online gradebook in Tyler 360 (SIS).

Additional Information & Recommendations

- It is highly recommended that schools/classrooms utilize a two-way communication system such as Class Dojo or Remind to support communication with families.
- All scholars in grades PK – 12 will receive their devices no later than September 7, 2021. (Grades KG – 8 will receive iPads, grades 9-12 will receive Dell 2-in-1's.)
- Scholars in grades PK-12 should take their devices home daily to support with homework, extended learning, flipped classroom strategies, and in the event of a school or classroom closure. (Parents must sign the technology contract to take devices home. Parents that “opt out” of taking the devices home, may not have a device in the event of intermittent virtual learning or quarantines.) Scholars may not bring their own devices to school.
- To maintain scholar records for virtual engagement – previous year individual teacher teams should not be deleted. Instead, teachers should “hide” Teams pages that are not active for the 2021-2022 school year. [Click here](#) to access a tutorial on hiding inactive Teams pages.

Support/Resources for Blended & Virtual Learning

- In the event a first year (2021-2022 new hire) teacher must transition to full P a g e | 2 virtual or hybrid instruction, they will be supported by their St. Louis Plan consultant teacher. All St. Louis Plan consultant teachers have participated in the 2020-2021 Virtual Teacher Professional Development and have attended on-going professional development to support virtual instruction and technology integration.
- Academic Instructional Coaches have been provided (and will continue to receive) professional development to coach and support teachers with technology integration and Blended Learning pedagogical practices.

- The technology department maintains a [“Technology Resources”](#) Teams page with resources, prerecorded webinars/PD, and tutorials to support virtual classrooms and technology integration.
- All of the 2020-2021 professional development resources including the Virtual Learning Playbook are maintained on the virtual learning website @ www.slps.org/virtual.
- All curriculum resources and texts support a Blended Learning Instructional Framework and are available digitally on the [Curriculum and Instruction website](#).
- The District will continue to provide premium Nearpod licenses for all instructional staff for the 2021-2022 school year. Nearpod is a dynamic, interactive, online scholar engagement platform in which teachers can present digital content in a variety of ways and utilize the various formative assessment and engagement tools. ([Click here](#) for an introduction to Nearpod)
- If additional support is needed at the school/building level, contact natasha.mitchell@slps.org.

Sample Virtual Learning Scenarios for 2021-2022 School Year

It is critically important that scholars who may have to quarantine or have decided to utilize the district fulltime online learning platform, Edmentum, are able to access support from a certified SLPS teacher. The scenarios below are examples of how we can support our scholars and continue to be responsive educators.

In the event one or more scholars must quarantine...

| Instructional Delivery/Content | Teacher Role /Expectations/Notes | Scholar Role/Expectations |
|---|--|---|
| <p>All assignments, instructions, and resources are uploaded in Teams and assigned in the online Curriculum Platforms (i.e. Savvas Realize, IXL, Nearpod)</p> <p>(In some instances, paper packets or tactile work may be provided - especially with PK-1st scholars or prior to 9-7-21)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all scholars have logins to Teams and any other online platform utilized to support learning • Post all assignments, instructions, and resources for the entire week by the start of school every Monday • Connect with families/caretakers of all quarantined scholars within 48 hours to ensure clarity of scholar expectations and provide support • Record tier 1 instruction/lessons and upload to Teams/Microsoft Stream within 24 hours (teachers can be paid up to 5 hours of extra service pay per week for completing this) • Optional: Create office hours (during plan period or before/after school) to meet with scholars at least once weekly to provide support (teachers will be paid extra service, up to 5 hours per week) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Login to Teams/Online Curriculum platforms daily • Complete all core content work asynchronously by due dates (due dates may be flexible based on the time frame in which teachers upload videos, and to be responsive to scholar needs) • Related arts classes and/or work is not required during intermittent quarantine to ensure scholars can focus on their core content assignments. Asynchronous enrichment resources and/or work/packets for related arts courses will be available for scholars/families upon request • Optional: Meet with teacher at least once weekly during office hours for support on assignments |

This option should also be utilized for scholars in In School Suspension (ISS) or Out of School Suspension (OSS)

In the event an entire class must quarantine:

| Instructional Delivery/Content | Teacher Role /Expectations/Notes | Scholar Role/Expectations |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Virtual Learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All instruction will transition to virtual teaching and learning led by the classroom teacher*• Teachers will follow the instructional schedule utilizing the SLPS virtual model of 50% live synchronous teaching and 50% asynchronous instruction• Related arts/Specialist teachers will facilitate virtual instruction during their designated related arts time. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholars will login to Teams daily and will follow their instructional schedule utilizing the SLPS virtual model of 50% live synchronous instruction and 50% asynchronous instruction• Scholars will actively participate in live instruction and complete all asynchronous assignments by due dates |

***If the teacher is quarantined and approved to work remotely, OR if the teacher is not quarantined and reporting to work in-person**

In the event a portion of the class AND the teacher (approved to work remotely) must quarantine:

| Instructional Delivery/Content | Teacher Role /Expectations/Notes | Scholar Role/Expectations |
|--|--|--|
| Virtual Learning (Principal or other designee will identify substitute or other coverage for remaining in-person learners) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All instruction will transition to virtual teaching learning led by the classroom teacher• Teachers will follow the instructional schedule utilizing the SLPS virtual model of 50% live synchronous teaching and 50% asynchronous instruction• Related arts/Specialist teachers will facilitate virtual instruction during their designated related arts time. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual and in-person scholars will login to Teams daily and will follow their instructional schedule utilizing the SLPS virtual model of 50% live synchronous instruction and 50% asynchronous instruction.• Scholars will actively participate in live instruction and complete all asynchronous assignments by due dates |

Edmentum & “My School” Model for Full Virtual Learning (Quarterly Enrollment):

| Instructional Delivery/Content | SLPS Teacher Staff /Expectations/Notes | Scholar Role/Expectations |
|---|--|---|
| Edmentum Virtual Instruction Independent/self-driven, standards-aligned virtual learning platform that students may access at any time online | An assigned facilitator is available and on Edmentum daily for check-in sessions with scholars | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Login daily and complete Edmentum assignments asynchronously• Meet virtually (as assigned) with Edmentum facilitator for support on independent Edmentum assignments |