



NCA Virtual Academy – Fact Sheet

Our leadership team in conjunction with a national consultant who specializes in Christian schools utilizing online learning conducted in-depth research in the planning and creation of the NCA Virtual Academy. We have selected an outstanding online curriculum that aligns with NCA's academic excellence and biblical integration.

Parent/Teacher Partnership: What is the role of the NCA Teacher? What is the parent role?

Our NCA Virtual Academy teachers are experienced, exceptional, and excited. They will start each morning with a group meeting for students (parents of younger students will want to join) in order to connect with students, build class community, and provide specifics for that day's learning. The plan for students and parents will be clear and doable. Our outstanding teachers will also conduct a weekly call with each family to enhance the student-teacher relationship and allow for above and beyond service to our Virtual Academy families. The teacher will be able to answer questions via phone, email, video call, etc. Virtual learning lends itself to more individualized student-teacher connection and differentiated instruction. We recognize that no two students learn the exact same way at the exact same pace, therefore we are thrilled about the ability our Virtual Academy will provide to meet your student's learning needs and interests in a more personalized way than traditional classrooms allow. It will look different though and like always, parent support and involvement will be important. Depending on the learner, parents may need to read the directions and explain the learning activities to their students and be available to redirect their student to be on task should he/she become distracted. Parents are vitally important to ensure the student completes the daily work as outlined by the teacher.

Core Subjects and Specialists?

The Virtual Academy will focus on the core subjects as opposed to specialists. However, families who want to extend the online school day with other learning materials are welcome to do so. The Virtual Academy team will be glad to help offer ideas that align with the student's unique interests, gifts, and passions. One of the things many families enjoy most about online learning is that it allows for flexibility in the student's schedule and more time for the student to pursue his/her God-given areas of interest and gifts.

Core subjects for grade levels are:

- Kindergarten - Phonics & Reading, Mathematics, and Language Arts
- 1st-2nd Grades - Phonics & Reading, Mathematics, Spelling & Vocabulary, Penmanship, Bible, History & Geography, and Science
- 3rd-6th Grades - Language Arts, History & Geography, Bible, Mathematics, Science
- 7th-8th Grades - Language Arts, History & Geography, Bible, Mathematics, Science, & one elective optional per semester

What does the student schedule look like?

The schedule will involve a morning meeting with the teacher and students as a class. The plan for the day will be covered as well as teacher instructions, a devotional, various engaging activities such as songs, Q&A, class discussion, etc. Students will look forward to this time each day. Students will have suggested schedules provided for what subject to work on when throughout the day, yet the flexibility to adapt as it best fits their family's schedule.

Curriculum includes:

- Three core subjects offered in Kindergarten with curriculum workbooks
- Seven subjects in 1st and 2nd grade with curriculum workbooks
- Five core subjects in 3rd-6th grade with online curriculum
- Six subjects in 7th-8th grade which includes five core subjects and students may optionally select one online elective course per semester

Teachers will also have supplemental resource suggestions for families to consider that are tailored to individual student interests regarding additional learning content for those who work quickly and who want extra content in core subjects or supplemental interests. Teachers are available during the school day to answer questions, conduct calls, and video calls, and provide the Northshore Christian Academy exceptional service and family care that you have come to know.

Will my student build social relationships within the Virtual Academy community?

Class and community building will be a priority with our virtual students. Teachers will employ age-appropriate activities and avenues for this to occur. We already have virtual academy parents who have volunteered to help create and host various student engagement avenues in the virtual setting. The creativity and intentionality to make for a fantastic year of learning are in the works and I am confident you'll be pleased with your student's virtual learning experience.

How did NCA design the Virtual Academy?

Our leadership team in conjunction with a national consultant who specializes in Christian schools utilizing online learning conducted in-depth research in the planning and creation of the NCA Virtual Academy. We have selected an outstanding online curriculum that aligns with NCA's academic excellence and biblical integration. Teachers of students in grades K-2 will utilize video meetings with their students while students complete work in hard copy workbooks. Teachers of students in grades 3-8 will also utilize video meetings but students of these older ages will access the learning materials on the online curriculum provider's platform. The online content can be printed, however, that is not a day-to-day necessity. The platform is extremely easy to navigate,

and should there be questions, our team can help. Additionally, the online course curriculum offers seven days a week technical support should, you have any issues.

What are the advantages of Virtual Learning?

The difference between Christian education and public school education is witnessed to a greater degree in the virtual setting vs. the on-campus setting. For example, the research shows that the teacher is one of the greatest influences in the student's learning motivation and confidence, which is linked to student learning performance. For us at NCA, not only is having all learning content come from a biblical worldview important but also the student-teacher relationship being grounded in a loving, nurturing, discipleship approach sets us apart. The research has consistently shown that students who learn virtually feel closer and better known by their teachers than they did on-campus. It is vitally important that the student's teacher is working from the same worldview as your family, so your child is not receiving conflicting instruction.

How does the Virtual Academy learning schedule compare with the traditional classroom schedule?

Virtual students should plan on starting their school day with their teacher at their scheduled morning meeting. The teacher will outline the schedule of learning content for that day. Students will have between 20-45 minutes of learning per subject per day. This will vary based on student grade level, individual learning pace, and focused time on task. The amount of time devoted to each subject is similar to the on-campus setting, however, a student who works faster will be able to move more quickly without delay while students who learn at a slower pace will not be rushed but have the at home flexibility to complete each subject assignments in the time needed. Also, at home learners will have more time within the traditional school day timeframe to complete supplemental activities at the suggestion of their teacher and parents. For example, time on-campus used for lining up, specialists, recess, etc., will allow at home students to customize their desired activities.

What does parental hands-on involvement look like?

Parental hands-on involvement will vary based on their student's reading comprehension ability, ability to stay on task, and overall academic grade level learning readiness. Parents of grades K-2 will assist their students by reading and explaining the learning activity directions, answering basic questions, and verifying the successful completion of assigned work. Students in grades 3-8 will be more independent in their learning by reading the directions to themselves, completing the online learning activities, and asking their parent and teacher for help when questions arise. The teacher is available during the school day to answer emails and talk via phone or video call with screen sharing abilities.

How is the Virtual Academy accredited?

The Virtual Academy is an accredited program under the ACSI and Cognia Accreditation certificates held by NCA. Our National Blue Ribbon School award standards carry over to a top-quality curriculum, teacher support, and academic standards.