



DEFIANCE CITY SCHOOLS

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Defiance Virtual Academy

Frequently Asked Questions

Definitions

NOVA - NOVA is the Northwest Ohio Virtual Academy, the content provider selected by Defiance City Schools

Lincoln Interactive - NOVA contracts with Lincoln Interactive for course content.

Defiance Virtual Academy (DVA) - Defiance Schools students enrolled in the DVA are using online content provided by NOVA for all coursework. Students are not attending school at a school building, but connecting from home to NOVA for their daily instruction. Students remain Defiance students, able to participate in any extracurriculars.

Virtual Learning - This is learning done through the Defiance Virtual Academy .

Remote Learning - If there comes a point where Defiance City Schools must close one school or all facilities in the school district, we will revert to remote learning utilizing Google Classroom. This will be similar to what was done in the Spring of 2020.

The Northwest Ohio Virtual Academy (NOVA)

- ❑ **NOVA is a privately owned company, who owns this company? I cannot find any ownership information on it**
 - ❑ NOVA is owned by a consortium called Northern Buckeye Educational Council (NBEC). NBEC is based in Archbold, Ohio. Defiance City Schools uses the Northwest Ohio Computer Association (NWOCA), which is part of NBEC for computer services in the school district. Nearly all area schools use these two entities to provide computer services.

- ❑ **Is NOVA just the curriculum? This is NOT the actual virtual campus, correct?**
 - ❑ NOVA provides the curriculum and the learning management system for the content to be delivered to the students. Defiance Virtual Academy is the name of the program under the umbrella of Defiance City Schools. It is not a separate physical location where students would attend.

What does NOVA look like?

- ❑ **How are the courses organized? Will students need help accessing the content?**
- ❑ **How will work be submitted?**
 - ❑ NOVA utilizes a Learning Management System (LMS) called Buzz (similar to Google Classroom) where content will be shared with students and where students can upload assignments. Buzz looks very much like other Learning Management Systems. The courses are self-paced and self-administered. It is recommended that children younger than grade 3 have a learning partner at home to help navigate the online interface.
- ❑ **Will the NOVA students have a Defiance teacher grading assignments? If a student does not understand an assignment or needs assistance to grasp a concept, how do they receive help? What would that support look like?**
 - ❑ Defiance Virtual Learning Academic Coach will be overseeing, monitoring and grading work. The teacher will be a point of contact for the student and families. There will not be daily contact as the materials from NOVA are designed to be self-paced and independent. If there are special needs, the teacher can coordinate with the families. Who will be overseeing will not be determined until we know how many students and what levels will be utilizing the NOVA option
- ❑ **What do the courses look like? Can I view some sample courses?**
 - ❑ NOVA has two videos available to learn about the course content and navigation of the Lincoln Learning site from both a student and parent/guardian perspective. You can access the videos at the sites listed below.

- ❑ [Grade 2 ELA](#) - This will show what a K-5 course will look like.
- ❑ [High School Science](#) - This will show the structure of a 6-12 course.

❑ **Will this be the same format as what was done in the spring?**

❑ **How is the Defiance Virtual Academy different from the remote learning in the spring?**

- ❑ The Defiance Virtual Academy is different from the remote learning that was employed in the Spring of 2020. The remote learning used Google Meet to facilitate face-to-face meetings with students. There will not be this type of interaction with the Defiance Virtual Academy. While there will be a Defiance employee assigned to each student who will assist them when/if needed, this will be mostly to assist with technical issues, academic progress, emotional support and to check on students' progress.

❑ **What kind of school supplies will be needed (besides computer and printer is recommended)?**

- ❑ Optional supplies are listed within each unit in the Parent/Teacher guide. Supply items are suggested for each subject area, but they are not required. Everything in the online curriculum is self-sufficient. There is nothing that needs to be purchased. Anything that is suggested extends the learning and provides kinesthetic opportunities for the students to do the activities offline. You can find a list of supplies on our website at: <http://www.defiancecityschools.org/DefianceVirtualLearningAcademy.aspx>

❑ **Approximately how many hours a day/week will be needed to complete the assignments/instruction?**

- ❑ Each of the core course lessons through Lincoln Learning (for K-5) are designed in 50 minute increments. The lessons are done at the student's pace, meaning that they can be done throughout the day and week as time allows. It is recommended that children younger than grade 3 have a learning partner at home to help navigate the online interface. At kindergarten and grade 1, students will be enrolled in Math, Language Arts (reading, writing, language skills) for the first semester. Science and Social Studies will be added for the second semester. Grade 2 Math, Language Arts and Science for the first semester. Social Studies will be added for the second semester. Students in Grades 3-5 will be enrolled in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students in Grades

6-8 will be enrolled in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies Grade 6 students will be assigned a music appreciation course, Grade 7 a computer course and Grade 8 a health course. Special courses such as art, physical education, and library time are not offered. These courses can be reinforced through family outings or offered as brain breaks from core classes. Since the core courses are flexible in terms of when they are completed, brain breaks, movement breaks, etc. may be planned by the home learning partner to meet the needs of the child. NOVA recently posted two videos to their website under the Parents/Students section describing the program and giving a walk-through of the website. You can find these at the following link:

<https://www.abc-nova.org/parentsstudents.aspx>

- Why can't there be a specific teacher who does online learning, so the kids stay in line with what is actually happening in the schools?**
 - We currently do not have the staff nor the luxury of time to develop the online content needed to ensure quality virtual content. This is the reason we are partnering with NOVA.

- Can EL be provided through this program?**
 - Yes, the toolbar translates to multiple languages.
 - EL tutor will follow the student plan

- Are NOVA teachers licensed? Who grades assignments and provides the feedback?**
 - Defiance teachers will grade and provide feedback to assignments.

Registration

- Can my child move from the in-school to virtual or vice versa at the end of any quarter? If so, is the curriculum at the same pace?**
 - We are asking for a semester commitment. This allows for proper staffing decisions to be made. It will also allow for an appropriate break in grading for the student. A child can move from the Defiance Virtual Academy to the in-person classes at the school building at the beginning of each semester.

- ❑ **What happens if the school district decides or is mandated to remote learning?**
 - ❑ If Defiance City Schools are forced by circumstances to revert to a remote learning model as was the case in Spring 2020, all students attending the in-person option will continue with their teachers in Google Classroom. All students at the Defiance Virtual Academy would continue in their courses until the end of the semester and would not “flip to” the remote learning courses.
- ❑ **Will we still be required to pay school fees? Will we still need to pay the Chromebook Insurance?**
 - ❑ School fees will be adjusted at each level. For grades 3-12 Chromebook insurance will still be collected.(\$25)
- ❑ **What happens if our child gets sick, are they still expected to log online that day?**
 - ❑ Please use your best judgement. If you elect to not log online for the day please email your Defiance Virtual Academy Academic Coach.

Rigor

- ❑ **Will classes/material covered line up with live classes if my child transfers back to face-to-face school next semester, or is it entirely different than what is being taught in-person?**
 - ❑ All Lincoln Learning curriculum is aligned to the Ohio State Standards. While there is no guarantee that students will move at the same pace or with the same success as in the classroom, using the same set of Ohio standards ensures that the content will be similar. When the child is ready or the circumstances allow for the child to return to the physical building, the transition should be smooth and with minimal gaps in learning. We recognize that a virtual classroom cannot replace the human interaction that Defiance City Schools is built upon. However, we believe that the choice of a virtual classroom may be the best option for some families at this time and that NOVA presents the best option to continue the excellence established at Defiance City Schools
- ❑ **My student is identified as eligible to receive gifted services. How will those services be provided via the at-home learning option?**

- ❑ Students recognized as Gifted are still recognized as such in this mode of instructional delivery. Our Gifted educators will design individual goals for these students and create a Written Education Plan to challenge them.

Assessment

- ❑ **Do students send in assignments or upload them, and how is student work assessed?**
 - ❑ Within the Defiance Virtual Academy NOVA courses, the assessments will be online.
- ❑ **How will at-home learning students be assessed throughout the year? How will they prepare and be assessed for statewide (Third Grade Guarantee) or national assessments?**
 - ❑ NOVA curriculum is aligned with State of Ohio learning standards and assessments are online. All work done is ultimately preparation for the Ohio State Tests (assessments of those very standards). Arrangements will be made for students to take these tests if required/needed.

Electives

- ❑ **What electives are available for students?**
- ❑ At the start of the school year, all students will be enrolled in core courses to start. For each grade level, the following will apply:
 - ❑ Grades K-1
 - ❑ ELA (English Language Arts - this includes reading and writing activities)
 - ❑ Math
 - ❑ Grade 2
 - ❑ ELA (English Language Arts - this includes reading and writing activities)
 - ❑ Math
 - ❑ Science
 - ❑ Grades 3-5
 - ❑ ELA (English Language Arts-this includes reading and writing activities)
 - ❑ Math
 - ❑ Science
 - ❑ Social Studies
 - ❑ Grades 6-8

- English
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Music Appreciation (Grade 6) Computer (Grade 7) Health (Grade 8)

- Grades 9-12
 - English
 - Math - if needed
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Health (Grade 9 only)
 - World Language (as applicable)
- Electives will be added to your virtual classroom once school gets started and everyone gets used to the routine and format. You can find more information regarding Lincoln Learning at <http://legacy.lincolninteractive.org/>
- All core subject content at Defiance Virtual Academy comes from NOVA. The core subject courses are all from Lincoln Interactive. Electives such as art, STEM, band, orchestra or choir will not be available through NOVA.

Defiance Virtual Academy Academic Coach

- How often will they interact/have lessons with a teacher?**
- Will there be need for voice/video calls with teachers? If so, would the calls be made during “typical” school hours?**
- How often do we check in with the teacher?**
- Also, is there no interaction with an instructor via video?**
- Is there contact daily with a teacher in the online learning environment?**
- With the work at your own pace, is there real classroom time where the students are watching and interacting with the teachers live?**
- Will at home learning students have access to guidance counselors or other school district services?**
 - The Defiance Virtual Academy will not offer daily direct instruction from a Defiance City Schools employee. These courses are designed to be mostly computer-instructed, self-paced and self-directed. There will be a Defiance City Schools employee assigned to each student who will assist them when/if needed. This individual can help troubleshoot issues with

the program itself, answer questions about content-specific items and serve as a contact for any other issues that may come up. There should not be an expectation of daily communication. We are still early in the process of staffing as we assess the number of students requesting this option. At this time, we are still working through which individuals will be overseeing the students enrolled in the DVA. Students participating in the virtual campus would be able to contact counselors as well as access other school resources.

❑ How will we enroll in the courses?

- ❑ Enrollment information for the virtual campus will be sent prior to the first day of classes. This will include the login information, school district contact person, supplies needed (if any) and information regarding content and online help.

❑ Will my child be able to interact with children at his or her home school? How will they stay connected?

- ❑ There will be limited opportunities for students enrolled in the Defiance Virtual Academy to participate in school activities, including interacting with classmates who are attending school traditionally and our teachers. If opportunities arise to include students with the larger school community, every effort will be made to make those connections/ opportunities available.

Technology

❑ Will a computer (and other electronic equipment) be provided?

- ❑ All Defiance students in grades 3-12 are issued a device and participate in our 1:1 program. Like for the final quarter of the 2019-20 academic year, we will work to support families of students in grades K-2. The district will send out more information and have a process in place for families to pick up their device. NOTE: \$25 Insurance is mandatory, if you choose to use a school device.

Special Education

❑ If I choose remote learning through NOVA, will my child receive the services outlined in his/her IEP?

- Yes. Students will be provided with the services outlined in his/her IEP in a virtual format.
- Who will provide the accommodations and/or modifications specified in my child's IEP?**
 - Students will be assigned a case manager through the school district who will work with you to ensure accommodations and modifications are embedded into the online system.
 - What if there are accommodations on my child's IEP that he/she will not need for virtual instruction?**
 - Once updated data is collected following the return to school, your child's case manager will contact you if there are necessary amendments to the IEP.
- Will my student still have a Defiance case manager?**

Yes. However, the case manager will likely be different than the provider he/she would have if attending school in-person.
- Who will schedule and hold my child's annual IEP meeting? Who will attend?**
 - The assigned case manager will schedule and attend the IEP meeting. A general education teacher from your child's grade level will attend the meeting along with the administrator of the building your child would attend in the school district.
- How will my child be provided with the therapy services designated in the IEP?**
 - Teletherapy sessions will be scheduled for your student in accordance with the IEP.
- How will specially-designed instruction be provided to my child?**
 - The designated service provider will work with you to set up a schedule for your student to virtually receive the specially-designed instruction in a manner consistent with his/her IEP.
- What if I have concerns my child has regressed or that his/her needs have changed following the school closure last spring? Will these things be addressed if I choose the virtual option?**

- Yes. Staff members will collect student data upon returning to school to make individualized determinations regarding whether or not there have been significant declines in any skills. In the event your child experienced significant regression as a result of the extended closure a team meeting will be scheduled to determine any additional services or supports that may be required. These meetings will take place by the end of the first quarter.

- Do school services count for school hours? My son has speech therapy and my daughter gets reading help.**
 - All services provided by Defiance City Schools 'count' as being part of the school day. This includes NOVA, teletherapy, and individualized instruction provided by the case manager.
- For my son with a speech IEP what would that happen if we went with the online plan?**
 - If a child is on a 504 or IEP for services, including speech therapy, then arrangements will be made to continue these services. The time spent receiving these services would be included in the hours.

Section 504 Plans

- Who will provide the accommodations and/or services specified in my child's 504 Plan?**
 - Your student's assigned school counselor from his/her school building will share a copy of the Section 504 Plan with the assigned school liaison. The liaison will be responsible for ensuring that the 504 accommodations are embedded into the online system.

- Who will schedule and hold my child's annual 504 meeting? Who will attend?**

The student's assigned school counselor from his/her school building will schedule and attend the 504 meeting. A general education teacher from your child's grade level will attend the meeting, along with the administrator of the building your child would attend in the school district.

- What if there are accommodations on my child's 504 Plan that he/she will not need for virtual instruction?**

- ❑ The 504 Plan can be amended to reflect any necessary changes. This can be initiated by the parent/guardian by contacting the school liaison or school counselor.