



## WFHS Virtual Learning Decision Guide

We believe that it is important for students and families to make informed decisions when deciding between instructional formats for the 2020-2021 school year. Here are some helpful links and resources to help assist you with this decision. You will find below information on two virtual platforms. Students can take full time or part time virtual courses for the 20-21 school year. If a course is offered through FVA (Forsyth Virtual Academy), the counselors at WFHS recommend that students take the courses through FVA. However, if a course is NOT offered via FVA, students can take the courses through GAVS (Georgia Virtual School). Any course taken during a student's 7 period schedule, whether in person or virtual, will be paid for by the school system.

- [Click here](#) for a full course list at FVA.
- [Click here](#) for a full course list at GAVS.
- [Click here](#) for the instructions to register for virtual courses. (scroll down)
- [Click here](#) for additional FAQ's regarding FVA.

### Please see below for a brief overview of Forsyth Virtual Academy:

- FVA courses are asynchronous; can be done any time student has internet access. There is no requirement for scheduled time in any course with the teacher present, although many teachers offer optional virtual help sessions to assist with content.
- FVA consists of Forsyth County courses, taught by Forsyth County teachers. Students remain a part of their assigned base school, can participate in clubs and organizations as long as requirements are met, transcripts/diplomas are from the base school, and students are eligible for all scholarships that are applicable to Forsyth County and Georgia students.
- FVA is generally paced week by week. While assignments will be posted daily for student completion, these weekly blocks of work will mainly have weekly or bi-weekly due dates. With that in mind, students can complete their weekly assignments early, but cannot complete their course at an accelerated pace, as FVA observes the same pacing and grading calendars as the base schools.

### FVA Full-Time:

*Full Time* means that **all** courses will be taken virtually - no courses will be taken at the base school.

- 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students must take a minimum of 6 courses
- 12th grade students who are on track for graduation must take a minimum of 4 classes
- **If you complete a full-time application, you will not be able to select courses. Once the application is processed and scheduling takes place, FVA in a joint effort with WFHS, will contact you to ensure the appropriate course load is selected.**

### FVA Part-Time:

*Part-Time* means that some courses will be taken at the base school face to face and some courses will be taken through FVA.

Additional questions regarding FVA and their specific course offerings, teachings, time commitment and rigor should be directed to FVA admin and counselors. Taking classes through FVA is very different from the extended online learning we experienced last spring. The FVA classes are not necessarily taught by WFHS staff members. Students will be able to return to West in January after completing first semester virtually. They will also be able to participate in clubs and activities like normal.



## WFHS Virtual FAQ's

### What if a course is not offered online?

- If a course is not offered through FVA/GAVS, students have the following options:
  - Students may come to school (face to face) for the course and take all other courses through FVA/GAVS
  - Students may wait and take the course during the 20-21 school year

### Can my student return to in person instruction if they don't like working in a virtual format?

- Students are committing to at least one full semester of online learning when registering for virtual classes. Courses taken virtually will have the same ending point in curriculum at the semester point for in-person instruction. Please keep in mind we do our best to match courses taken in the virtual setting, but there may be a course offered virtually that is not offered in the building at WFHS and minor adjustments may need to be made. This is subject to schedules and class availability as well.

### Is Virtual School the right option for my student?

- This is a family decision that should be made based upon which you feel is best for your student. Things to be taken into consideration may include health concerns, students ability to self direct, his/her learning through virtual learning, etc.

### What is the deadline for signing up for virtual instruction?

- Students must register for virtual courses by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

### My child has an IEP and has been enrolled in Special Education. Does Forsyth Virtual Academy (FVA) enroll students with special needs?

- Yes, as a public school, FVA accepts students with disabilities. The main issue to be considered is whether or not the independent nature of online instruction will be the best fit for a student. **This decision should be made as an IEP Team to ensure that all necessary supports are in place to ensure academic success for students.**

### Does the rigor level for classes differ between virtual and in-person instruction?

- No. Courses that are taken in the virtual format are still paced and taught to provide students the information that they need to succeed. Specifically, AP classes are taught to help support student's performance on the AP exam, much like in the classroom. (See FVA FAQ's link)

### How are courses posted when taking FVA or GAVS courses?

- FVA courses are yearlong courses and are posted at the end of the school year as a whole credit. If your student decides to come back to WFHS at the end of the semester, then the grade from FVA will transfer into a yearlong grade at WFHS. GAVS courses are posted as semester grades. Students will earn a 0.5 credit for the first half of the course (A section) and 0.5 for the second half of the course (B section). Students in semester GAVS courses will earn 0.5 credits.

### Should my student take accelerated and/or math courses through virtual learning?

- This is a student and family decision. The instructors at FVA are FCS educators. Most of them teach the same courses in the buildings around Forsyth County. (See FVA FAQ's link above).