

## **Virtual Learning Definitions and FAQ's**

### **Definitions:**

**eLearning:** Instruction conducted via electronic media, typically on the Internet or through a digital device (i.e. iPad). BHMSD will utilize eLearning on planned days only. Families will be notified in advance of an eLearning Day.

**Virtual Learning:** Timely, active participation in the learning process via technology and video conferencing. BHMSD will offer virtual learning as an option for the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, virtual learning will be utilized for a school closure as needed or for an inclement weather day.

**LMS:** Learning Management System (LMS) is the use of a computer program in which students and teachers utilize to interact digitally in an instructional setting. It serves as the primary setting for virtual learning. At BHMSD, Canvas is the LMS utilized by all K-12 students.

**Formative Assessments:** Designed to provide feedback to students. These assessments do not usually have a major impact on grades, so students are free to experiment without fear of impacting their grades. Formative assessments are aimed to help students improve performance.

**Summative Assessments:** Designed to show mastery of a subject. A type of assessment to be the major assignments where the majority of a student's grade is determined. Formative assessment should be targeted to help students push themselves to achieve their best performance on these assessments.

**Video Conferencing:** Use of technology such as Google Meet to interact in real time with others.

### **Virtual Learning FAQs:**

1. What is virtual learning?
  - a. Virtual learning is defined as timely, active participation in the learning process via technology and video conferencing.
2. What is BHMSD providing virtual learning?
  - a. Students and parents have chosen virtual learning as their learning option for the 2020-2021 school year.
  - b. A health and/or safety concern has closed BHMSD schools.
  - c. Weather related closures.

3. When will virtual learning days occur?
  - a. The district may authorize virtual learning days during inclement weather school closings or in a case of a crisis emergency.
4. How will students and parents be informed that a virtual learning day has been authorized?
  - a. The school district will issue a school messenger notification through the automated call service to inform students and parents of a virtual learning day. In addition, the notification will be posted on the school website, Twitter, Facebook, local radio, and local television broadcasts.
5. Who decides if virtual learning days will occur?
  - a. District Administrators, the Wells County Health Department, or state/national officials will determine when/if virtual learning days will occur.
6. Will virtual learning days impact any after-school activities?
  - a. After-school activities following virtual learning days may or may not be impacted and will be determined on a student safety basis.
7. Who will take part in virtual learning days?
  - a. All parties involved in the instructional process of students will take part in virtual learning days: students, teachers, administrators, parents etc.
8. Do students with identified special learning needs have an alternative means to access their education on virtual days?
  - a. Yes, individual supports, services, and accommodations for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), Individual Learning Plan (ILP), or a Section 504 Plan are reviewed, discussed, and agreed upon at the student's case conference committee meeting, a Section 504 meeting, or general education plan meeting.
9. What materials/coursework will be covered on virtual learning days?
  - a. Educators will focus on continuing the instructional process during virtual learning days. This may occur in the form of new material and/or standard mastery or review.
10. When will material/coursework be due?
  - a. The expectation for the completion of virtual learning assignments/tasks is for students to complete assigned work during the virtual learning day. All assignments will be due as assigned by the teacher as participation is expected in real time.
11. Will material/coursework completed during virtual learning be scored/graded?
  - a. Yes, material/coursework along with corresponding assignments/tasks may be scored/graded and included in a student's overall grade for the course.

12. How will students be informed of material/coursework during a virtual learning day?
  - a. Students enrolled in virtual learning will follow a schedule as presented by the school to the student at registration.
  - b. In the case of a crisis related virtual learning environment for all students, the schools will run on a 2-hour delay schedule with classes conducted in real time or as scheduled by individual buildings.
  - c. In the event of a weather related virtual learning day, classes will run on a 2-hour delay schedule with classes conducted in real time or as scheduled by individual buildings.
13. How will students obtain assistance from educators on virtual learning days?
  - a. Educators and students will be able to interact during the scheduled class time via Google Meet. In addition, educators will be available via email or Canvas messages to provide additional support.
14. What if a student is unable to connect to the internet?
  - a. We are aware that not all students have internet access at home. Students and families should work with their teacher, school counselors, and administrators to find a solution
  - b. Free public wireless internet is available on the BHMSD campus, at the Wells County Public Library, in the 4-H Park parking lot, in the Forgotten Children parking lot, and at various area restaurants.
15. How is virtual learning monitored and verified?
  - a. Accountability for students and their mastery of instructional goals relies on assessment of work. As in the traditional classroom, teachers assess the student work and will know if students have met the instructional goals for the day. The most important attribute involving progression of learning is determined through formative and summative assessment. The actual amount of time online is less important than the work produced and/or created by the student to demonstrate learning and mastery of learning targets.
  - b. Attendance will be taken by the first period teacher each day. Students who are not participating fully in the virtual learning process will be noted, monitored, and each situation addressed individually to problem solve the issue. A student who does not successfully work in the virtual setting will not be able to choose the virtual environment and will be required to come to school unless a medical condition does not allow. If attendance is poor during a crisis situation, a DCS and/or probation report may be made for truancy.

16. Will the traditional eLearning model be used during the 2020-2021 school year?
- a. BHMSD will use the eLearning model in the following circumstances:
    - i. If the day is a planned day which teachers are involved in professional development for a large part of the day. In that case, eLearning will be used and assignments posted in the student learning system, Canvas.
    - ii. If the day is a planned day that leads into an extended break period. (example: the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving)
17. How will my child do important assessments if they have chosen to be a virtual learner?
- a. Teachers will work with students on the best option for important assessments. Students may be asked to come into the school building to do assessments in the office area.