



Coeur d'Alene Virtual Academy

School Handbook

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

2022 – 2023

208-758-8484 • www.cdaschools.org/CDVA

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A Message from the Elementary Principal

Welcome to CDVA. I'm excited to start our first year as an elementary school in the Coeur d'Alene school district. Coeur d'Alene Virtual Academy is a hybrid school that allows our students to learn both online and in person. Online learning allows for flexibility with pacing and depth of learning. In-person hands-on learning is promoted as is critical thinking and student voice.

CDVA is an inclusive school where general education teachers and special education teachers work together to meet the needs of students. Our students are served whenever possible in general education classrooms. This allows students with special needs to receive the support they need in their least restrictive environment. All students benefit from the additional resources and support used in inclusive classrooms.

Our students own their education which is facilitated by a highly trained staff of dedicated educators. CDVA will focus on K-12 Mastery Based Education designed to prepare students for their future, using the Portrait of a Graduate as a guiding document. Its students will engage in a rigorous, well-rounded education with an inquiry-based instructional approach. Students will co-design projects with their teachers and each other with the purpose of making small and large improvements in our Coeur d'Alene Community and beyond. Learning experiences will be integrated across the curriculum; technology use and training will be infused in all courses. The learning setting will extend beyond the school site; students will learn at home, at the school site, and in the community.

Learning must be purposeful and make a true difference in the community we live in. For this reason, on in person days will have a focus of community service each quarter as we plan on giving back to the community. This will be a dynamic and collaborative process as we survey our community for ideas and needs.

As the principal of your school I want to be available to you for all your needs. Please feel free to pop in during any of our in-person days, if you plan on staying for the day we do ask that you go through the volunteer screening. Other than that please feel free to e-mail me at bweinberger@cdaschools.org or call my cell phone (208) 967-5173.

Most sincerely,

Brianne Weinberger

CDVA Elementary Daily Schedule Virtual Days

2nd and 3rd Grade

- 8:30-9:00 Class Meeting For Both 2nd and 3rd
- 9:15-9:45 2nd Grade Reading / S.S. / Science
- 9:45-10:15 3rd Grade Reading / S.S. / Science
- 10:15-10:45 2nd Grade Writing
- 10:45-11:15 3rd Grade Writing
- 11:15-11:45 Lunch
- 11:45-12:15 2nd Grade Core Math
- 12:14-12:45 3rd Grade Core Math
- 12:45-2:55 One on One / Independent Work
 - One on One times will only be Monday and Friday only. During Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday this time will be more fluid and meetings will be arranged based on need.

CDVA Elementary Daily Schedule Virtual Days

4th and 5th Grade

- 8:30-9:00 Attendance and Morning Meeting
- 9:15-11:15 Reading Workshop Block
 - 9:15-10:15 4th grade ELA
 - 10:15-11:15 5th grade ELA
- 11:15-11:45 Lunch
- 11:45-12:45 4th grade math
- 12:45-1:45 5th grade math
- 1:45-3:00 Group and open help time

Coeur d'Alene Virtual Academy Staff Commitments

Defining Beliefs

- We believe relationships support the academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being of our students.
- We believe in an inclusive learning community where all students are valued and respected.
- We believe all students learn best through rigorous, authentic, meaningful, and equitable learning opportunities to create and apply new knowledge.
- We believe students thrive when families, teachers, and school staff partner to support them.
- We believe our students are difference makers (leaders) who understand and pursue solutions to the challenges faced by our city and world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does a virtual day look like?

Our elementary students check-in with their teachers daily. This is a time to connect as a classroom community. The teachers in the combination classes then will host breakout groups for math and english language arts. Students who are not meeting directly with their teacher will have independent work they can finish.

During these independent work times, students use critical thinking, hands-on learning, journaling, observation, exploration, and strategic and scientific methods to truly get to understand their world. Using the Idaho Core Standards, academic work is rigorous, challenging and purposeful.

What is a hybrid model?

Choice in education is a powerful opportunity for families to be involved in their child's learning. The hybrid model where students are online 4 days a week allows flexibility for families. The in person days provide an opportunity in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge.

Learning must be purposeful and make a true difference in the community we live. For this reason, our in person days are rich in community connections and experiences.

What will the Advanced Learner Program look like?

ALP students will have an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) developed by the teacher, the student and the parent. In this plan, the student's special needs will be outlined, addressed and detailed. Students assigned to ALP will be students who perform in the top 5% of their grade using nationally normed assessments. All work will be completed with their grade level teacher and the ILP will guide the enrichment learning experience.

What is Inclusion?

CDVA believes that students learn best in an environment with their peers, taught by a highly-trained teacher with specialized academic support pushed into the classroom learning. This means that students with special needs, students who have holes in their learning and students of exceptionality, will remain with their grade level peers.. The special education case managers will work with the IEP team to ensure that all student needs are being met.

There will be times when a child needs to participate in one on one work to work on specific goals or progress monitor IEP goals, but this time will be minimal.

In the U.S. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), least restrictive environment (LRE) means that a student who has a disability should have the opportunity to be educated with nondisabled peers, to the greatest extent appropriate. IEP's may need to be reviewed and amended to ensure each IEP is meeting this requirement.

What are the school rules?

Be Kind

Be Safe

Make Progress

What do specials look like?

Students will learn to move and play in their natural environment. Students will have a monthly choice board of activities that they can complete on their own or with their families that align to the state physical education, art, and music standards. When we meet as a class we will include urban trekking as well as team and individual movement and play. We will be exploring the musical world around them and creating art.

Who can enroll in CDVA?

Policy states that we are allowed to accept students from all over our district, and outside of the district. We are a public school in Coeur d'Alene with a focus on Virtual and Hybrid learning. Because of our unique platform we do not have a home school zone. Students outside our homeschool zone and district may apply for a transfer into our school. These applications will be approved on a space-available basis.

Attendance and Tardies

Tardies and Attendance Program

Students need to check in daily during their morning meeting. Unless families have otherwise notified the teacher our office manager will call families who did not attend their virtual session.

In-person days

Elementary students are asked to come to in person days, since transportation is not available in person days are optional, but families need to check in with their teacher if they are not planning to attend. The teacher will provide an asynchronous activity for the day.

Coming too early/staying too late

To ensure the safety of all children, any child who arrives at school 10 minutes or before or who has been left at the school after 10 minutes will have families called to make future arrangements.

General Information

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be out of sight and turned off during the school day. If a cell phone is heard or seen, it will be confiscated and turned into the principal or teacher. The child's parent will be called to pick up the cell phone at the end of the day.

Transportation

During in person days parents drop off and pick up students at the Boys and Girls club.

When in person at the Boys and Girls club, all visitors to CDVA must come through the front doors of the Boys and Girls club for both drop off and pick-up. There is a parking lot in the back of the building. They can also park in the Lakes Middle school lot.

Library

Students will check out classroom books 1x a month. Our school teachers will work with students to provide books to take home. Students are also encouraged to log into SORA for access to thousands of printed books on the computer. As a school we are coordinating with the public library. All students have the opportunity to get a library card and check out books from the CDA library. This library is part of the community library network and students can check-out and return books from a variety of campuses.

Valuables at school

It is best to leave valuable items, especially jewelry and electronics, at home. CDVA is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

PTO

PTO stands for Parent Teacher Organization. Some elementary schools have PTO's, but the idea is the same.

CDVA is interested in connecting with parents to form a PTO. The PTO supports teachers and staff in their mission to provide quality education in a socially responsible and positive climate.

These experiences can range from:

- special assemblies
- field trips
- enrichment programs
- after school clubs
- service projects

As the year unfolds with or without a PTO we want parents to be involved in our school. All input is valued and everyone is encouraged to offer opinions and give feedback.

Additional CDVA Resources/Programs

Counseling Program

CDVA school counselor supports student growth in the following areas: academic development, personal/social development and career/college readiness. The school counselor does this through twice monthly classroom guidance lessons, small groups that meet during lunch time on different topics such as social skills and friendship skills and meeting with individuals and groups of students. The counselor also acts as liaison between school staff, students and families. In addition, the counselor can refer families in need to community resources. The counselor does not provide in-depth mental health counseling, but rather works with all students in the school to make sure they are learning and growing in a healthy school environment.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Process

Students who are struggling with a certain aspect of their education (reading/writing/math/behavior) may be referred to the MTSS team by their classroom teacher. The MTSS team consists of the classroom teacher, principal, counselor, teacher, and parents. The team meets together and brainstorms interventions and remediation options.

Specialized Education Services

Coeur d'Alene Virtual offers special education services for students. We coordinate with both the district office special education team as well as the zoned schools to provide students with a case manager. The case manager works closely with the general education teacher to ensure that supports are provided so that students can be successful in both the virtual classroom as well as in person learning days.

Discipline

Students are expected to be in control of their body and emotions. If a student makes a poor choice, is out of control of his or her body and/or emotions or needs a break from his or her environment, the student is offered numerous opportunities to regain control.

Office Referral

- Teacher sends the student to the Principal and completes a redirection form.
- If the child is being referred to the office for a history of minor offenses, it is expected parent contact has been made by the classroom teacher and the parent is aware of the escalating concern.
- Offenses include:
 - A history of minor offenses
 - The child's 4th Office Assistance Request in one week.
 - Harassment
 - Bullying
 - Swearing/Cussing—when heard by an adult
 - Throwing items including rocks and snow
 - Fighting
 - Weapons

This referral may result in the following:

- Conference with the counselor
- Recess detention/ Alternate recess
- Parent notification by the principal
- Possible strategic interventions through Response to Intervention process
- Suspension (in school or out of school)
- Expulsion

Suspension

In school suspension may be a result of repeated office referrals. Students and administration will call parents to notify them of this consequence. The student will spend the remainder of their school day completing academic tasks in the office separate from their classroom and peers.

Out of school suspensions may be a result of repeated major offenses. Parents will be required to pick up their child and remove them from school. Suspensions may be short term (1 or 3 days) or long term (5 days pending expulsion).

Expulsion

Expulsion is a serious consequence to major offenses that are not able to be remediated through school interventions. Any expulsion decision goes through the school board process.

Who to Contact?

CDVA Office-208-758-8484

Brianne Weinberger-Elementary Principal bweinberger@cdaschools.org 208-967-5173

Heidi Duchow-Office Manager/Family Liason heidi.duchow@cdaschools.org