



BCS Online School

2021-2022

Bexley City Schools

www.bexleyschools.org

Overview

The BCS Online School (BCSOS) is a fully digital learning option for K-12 students within Bexley City Schools who require off-site school placement for the 2021-2022 school year. It is intended to be a different learning environment for students whose needs are best served by such a program. As such, it will look and feel very different from the environments provided within physical buildings across the district.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Bexley City Schools offered an online option that was very fluid over the year, allowing students to move in and out as the global and local situation due to the pandemic evolved. In July 2021, legislation was passed by the Ohio legislature and signed into law by the Governor that modified requirements for school districts and online learning options. This law created provisions for districts to operate an online school, including more structured expectations regarding curriculum and student attendance. The Governor and the Ohio Department of Education have clearly stated such online schools are not meant to be short-term transition strategies, as students benefit from consistent, stable, and intentional academic programming.

To that end, Bexley City Schools has created an option for online learning for students who are most in need due to exceptional reasons. BCS Online School is meant to be a long-term enrollment (full semester or full year) purposefully selected by interested families as the best learning environment for enrolled students. BCSOS is built upon an Ohio-specific curriculum and taught by Ohio-licensed teachers with a streamlined focus on core academics. This narrowed focus enables enrolled students and their families to prioritize attention on critical academic content while addressing family needs that prompted the enrollment in BCSOS. BCS Online School is not intended to be a digital version of the programming offered in the district's physical buildings. BCS Online School is a unique school within the district.

Bexley Connection

BCS Online School is a unique, independent K-12 school within the Bexley City School District. *Students enrolled in BCSOS will not simultaneously be enrolled in a physical building or be assigned to a Bexley classroom teacher and will not be assigned to a class of Bexley students.*

A Bexley faculty member will oversee operations and serve as a liaison between the district and families of enrolled students. This liaison will send monthly newsletters to families with important updates, and families will also continue to receive the weekly district email newsletter.

Content Provider

BCSOS will be operated in conjunction with the Jefferson County Educational Service Center in Steubenville, Ohio. Jefferson County ESC has been operating a Virtual Learning Academy since 2004, having worked with over 50,000 Ohio students across 173 districts along with students from across the United States. They have developed a curriculum based on Ohio learning standards and utilize licensed teachers. For more information about their work, visit their website at <https://www.jcesc.k12.oh.us/VLA.aspx>.

Staff

BCSOS students will be assigned to a licensed teacher through the Jefferson County ESC. The assigned teacher will not be a Bexley City Schools teacher. Teachers will grade work daily during the school week, will provide feedback on student work, answer questions, and monitor student progress. Teachers will take and report daily attendance and will be available for questions at designated check-in times.

Curriculum and Learning Experience

The curriculum used has been developed by Ohio educators and is fully aligned to Ohio Learning Standards. Instruction is provided through online videos and readings with interactive learning activities and online assessments to check for understanding. Students move forward in the curriculum when they have demonstrated understanding with at least 70% accuracy. It is important to note teachers do not provide direct instruction; however, they are available to respond to questions during check-in times or via electronic means.

Elementary students will each take English language arts, math, science, and social studies. Allied arts courses are not available through BCSOS and are not a part of Ohio's required curriculum. Families are encouraged to pursue experiences in art, music, and physical fitness in their homes and community.

Middle school students will each take English language arts, math, science, and social studies and 1 total credit of electives from the Jefferson County ESC course catalog. In most cases, this will include two different semester-length electives. Foreign language electives taken at BCSOS will not count toward high school foreign language credit, as the courses do not fulfill the full curriculum of a high school credit course. The BCSOS principal will work with students and families to select electives and enroll in the proper level academic courses.

High school students will take appropriate English language arts, math, science, and social studies courses and 2 total credits of electives from the Jefferson County ESC course catalog. Advanced Placement course options include Calculus and Physics. The BCSOS principal will work with Bexley High School counselors, students, and families to select electives and enroll in the proper level academic courses to ensure proper progress toward graduation requirements.

BCSOS students are required to participate in the district testing programs, including, but not limited to, fall reading diagnostic assessments (grades K-3), MAP (grades 1-9), gifted screening (grades 2 and 4), PSAT (grades 9-11), ACT (grade 11), and Ohio State Tests (grades 3-10). The principal of BCSOS will communicate a testing schedule to families with specific dates and times for students to come to a designated district building. Remote testing options are not available for these required assessments.

Technology

Students enrolled in BCSOS will be provided a device under the district technology plan that includes the utilization of an iPad for students in grades K and 1 or a Chromebook for grades 2 through 12. District staff will assist families with internet access upon request.

Extracurricular Activities

BCSOS students may participate in extracurricular activities with another district school. Extracurricular activities include those activities offered after school or during lunch that are not connected to a class. Examples include middle and high school athletics and student government. Field trips, counselor lessons, and most instrumental and vocal music and art programs are tied to instructed curriculum and considered co-curricular; therefore, BCSOS students are not eligible to participate in those at another building. Similarly, school-based events such as field day, 5th grade graduation, or school parties are specific to individual school buildings. Students enrolled in BCSOS would not be eligible to participate in those activities.

Students with Exceptional Needs

Each student is unique with their own set of strengths and areas for growth. Some students may have documented needs leading to eligibility for specialized services. Online instruction can accommodate some of those needs; however, others are better served in a physical space.

Students with disabilities documents on an IEP or 504 plan may be served in a variety of ways. Certain accommodations, such as extended time or modified assignment length, will be provided by the teacher of record assigned in BCSOS. A licensed intervention specialist through BCSOS will be assigned to support implementation of the student's IEP. Specific service provisions will be discussed during an IEP review meeting.

Students gifted in areas that align with district-provided services may access those services by maintaining enrollment in their original school. Elementary gifted services, middle school gifted ELA, compacted middle school math, and high school honors and Advanced Placement courses (except AP Calculus and Physics) are not available for students enrolled in BCSOS.

Students in grades K through 3 who are required to have a Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan (RIMP) based on their fall reading diagnostic assessment will receive a RIMP under Ohio law. Reading support services will be provided in the manner outlined on the RIMP.

Enrollment

Any student who resides within the Bexley City School District may apply for full-time enrollment in BCS Online School. Enrollment in BCSOS is considered an *intradistrict open enrollment* in alignment with Board Policy JECBD. Application must be made in writing using the Intradistrict Open Enrollment form, obtained on the district website or from the district office no later than the business day prior to the first day of the school year or second semester. Approval will be based on space availability and with consideration of the individual student's learning needs to ensure maximum student success. Partial enrollment or dual enrollment with another Bexley school will not be granted. Applications to transfer enrollment to a district building must be filed by December 1 to transfer second semester or April 30 to transfer at the start of the new year.

Students are subject to Ohio compulsory attendance laws. Attendance will be documented by the curriculum provider and assigned teacher of record based on completed assignments and time in the instructional system. All required notifications and state reporting apply to students in BCSOS.

In accordance with Board Policy JECBB, students who do not reside in Bexley are not eligible to enroll.