



## Hanover County Online School

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Dear Hanover Online School Families and Students,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Hanover County Online School - Home of the OWLs! On behalf of our entire leadership team, faculty and staff - please know that we are so happy to have you and are very excited to work and learn with you this year!

This year I have the honor of continuing to serve as Online School Principal. I am joined by two Assistant Principals who were also with Online School last year. Mrs. Mary Townes will serve as elementary Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Erin Sturgis will serve as middle/high school Assistant Principal. [Here is a complete list](#) of our leadership team.

If you are a returning OWL, you will notice that some aspects of Online School will look a bit different than last year. The most obvious change is that we are much smaller! While we will greatly miss the wonderful teachers and students with whom we worked last year, our Online Team is excited about the opportunities our smaller school will present to allow us to work on a closer level with teachers, students and families.

Another difference you will notice, particularly for middle and high school students, is that all students will be making greater use of their cameras. While teachers will continue to be sensitive to any challenges students may face with camera use, students will be required to utilize their cameras in every class each day. This will allow teachers to more closely monitor students for engagement in learning tasks and to provide “real time” assistance and feedback to students as they work.

Elementary students will see a difference in the structure of the school day. We are excited that this year resource classes will be provided “live”. This means that our school day will look similar to that of face-to-face schools with synchronous instruction occurring both before and after lunch. Students and families should plan for a full day of school from 8:00 to 2:30.

The most important thing that will look the same are the foundational characteristics of our school:

- Relationships come first.
- Extending grace to one another is essential.
- Every single one of our students has enormous potential, and the faculty and staff of HCOS has the skill and talent to find and nurture this potential.

Over the next several weeks, we will be sharing detailed information with you about the school year and back-to-school activities. I would like to take this opportunity to share some preliminary information with you below.

Again - please accept my welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Hanover Online School. I'm so happy you're here!

Kindly,

*Dana Gresham*

Principal, Hanover County Online School

### **Back-to-School Events**

A number of back-to-School events will occur the week of August 30th, and you will receive detailed information in the next several weeks about dates, times, and locations. You can expect opportunities to get class assignments/schedules and meet teachers (either live for elementary students or via videos for secondary students). Please note that there will also be opportunities the first week of school to meet teachers.

A drive through event will occur the week of August 30th at which all students will receive a headset and an individual whiteboard. Students will also receive other materials and supplies specific to their grade levels and courses.

### **Supplies and Support**

These are the [supply lists for elementary students](#).

Middle and high school teachers will share specific supplies needed during the first week of school.

All students would benefit from developing a quiet, organized learning space prior to the start of school. Parents and learning coaches should help students think through organizational structures and dedicated spaces for materials.

### **School Schedules**

The school day for Online students is the same as for face-to-face students.

The elementary school day is 8:00-2:30 with synchronous instruction both before and after lunch.

The middle/high school day is 8:45-3:45.

Online School follows the [HCPS school calendar](#).

Online School is subject to the same inclement weather delays and closings as face-to-face schools.

We will be sharing more specific schedule information in the next several weeks, including early release and delayed opening schedules.

### **Virtual Virginia**

Many of our secondary students will be taking courses through Virtual Virginia. Please make note of this important information regarding Virtual Virginia.

**Virtual Virginia operates on a rolling schedule. Because of that, student will start their Virtual Virginia course on August 24th.** HCPS will provide Chromebooks for all Virtual Virginia students prior to the start of class. More information will be forthcoming about Chromebook pickup.

Parents are assigned as course “mentors” for their children. Mentors are responsible for:

- Monitoring student progress and needs through daily contact with students taking Virtual Virginia courses
- Monitoring classroom activities and progress of students taking Virtual Virginia classes within the school
- Serving as a liaison between the student, the school and Virtual Virginia instructors and supervisors regarding student performance and progress
- Collecting student forms required by Virtual Virginia
- Notifying counselors immediately of any students’ intent to withdraw from Virtual Virginia courses. Students must continue to submit work until withdrawal is processed or the grade may be negatively affected.

Students' Virtual Virginia grades will be recorded in Powerschool along with their Hanover County Online School grades.

Your student will be placed into a Virtual Virginia Schoology course before the first day of class (August 24th). Please have them log into their Schoology account before the start date for more information.

The following are resources to support parents and students with Virtual Virginia courses:

- [K-12 Instruction](#)
- [Parent/Guardian Information](#)
- [Student Success](#)