



Knob Noster R-VIII School District

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Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Angela Rolofson, Director, Student Services

Our Mission Is Student Success

Date: 11-21-2020
To: All KNPS Parents
From: Jerrod Wheeler
RE: Second Semester Learning Options – **Response Required by December 1**

Dear Parents,

As previously shared, this memo and attached survey is being sent to assist the district in planning for in-person and virtual offerings for second semester. We appreciate your ongoing partnership during first semester, and we look forward to continuing our work as we welcome in 2021! The information below is being shared to help you make an informed decision on which option best meets your expectations for your child.

Information For ALL Students

In Knob Noster Public Schools, Our Mission Is Student Success! That mission has continued throughout the COVID -19 crisis and through the challenges it has presented. As mentioned in a prior memo to parents, the district has taken a variety of ongoing actions to support students in their virtual learning environments. However, the virtual setting has not been successful for some students. As we close out first semester, students who have been successful in this setting will be approved to continue in this setting, should they choose to do so. Students who have been unsuccessful in the virtual setting will not be approved for virtual learning for second semester, as provided by state law. Please look for individual communication from your child's counselor or principal.

Similar to first semester, your choice for second semester will carry through to the end of the school year. Please choose carefully. Any future request to change your selection will require administrative review and approval. Not all requests will be approved.

Our goal is to keep safety AND student success at the forefront of our decisions. Thank you again for your time to review and respond to this survey.

For Little Wingmen PreK Students and Title I PreK Students

Little Wingmen and Title I PreK will continue to offer only an in-person option for students for second semester. Should Whiteman Elementary or the District experience a shutdown, our Little Wingmen teachers will transition to provide remote services for these students. Ipads purchased through our DODEA grant have been distributed to Little Wingmen. Title I PreK parents will be contacted to arrange instruction in the event of a shut down. Little Wingmen and Title I PreK parents do not need to respond to this survey for their Preschool student(s).

Options For Elementary K-5 Students

Option 1: 100% In-person Learning: The Highly Recommended option by the KNPS Team

During first semester, we saw the vast majority of parents choose in-person learning for their elementary student(s). This option will continue as currently offered for second semester. In the instance of a shutdown, your child's teacher will provide remote learning.

As of this memo, the district has quarantined nearly 150 elementary students. However, ZERO positive cases among elementary students have been traced to in-school transmission.

Option 2: Knob Noster K-5 Virtual Academy (top recommended virtual option)

Our top recommended virtual option is to enroll your child with our internal program taught by Knob Noster Elementary or Whiteman Elementary teachers. This option will match what was offered during first semester. This option includes:

1. Knob Noster Virtual Academy daily instruction delivered by a Knob Noster Elementary / Whiteman Elementary teacher through Google Meets, Google Classroom, and other platforms. Your child's teacher will be available daily for instruction, consultation, remediation, enrichment, one-on-one support, etc. **In this option, your child's teacher will PARTNER with you as parents to manage the learning process.**
2. In this option, the virtual "class" will consist of your child's KNE or WE classmates, and will include opportunities throughout the day for classmates to interact during and between academic lessons.
3. The curriculum and pace of the class will align to the curriculum and pace of the entire grade, including those attending in person and in other virtual class sections.
4. The district is working on options to integrate Art, Music and PE into this platform in the near future.

Based on first semester, we expect there to be at least one virtual class in each grade level.

Option 3: Edmentum / Calvert Virtual Learning

The district has partnered with Edmentum over the last several years to create the Knob Noster Virtual Academy. Like option 1, this option is also aligned to state standards. However, this option is **not** delivered by a Knob Noster Elementary or Whiteman Elementary teacher. This option includes:

1. Daily instruction delivered through Edmentum's platform. [Click here for an overview.](#) This will be supported by a state certified teacher assigned by Edmentum. Your child's teacher will be available primarily through email. [Click here](#) for an example. **In this option, parents will play a VITAL role in managing the learning process. This is a viable option for students who are self-starters and strong self-managers, or for students whose parents are available to be heavily involved in managing the learning process.**
2. The virtual "class" may include other students from Knob Noster, Whiteman, or other districts across Missouri. Student interaction in this platform will be minimal.
3. The curriculum and pace of the class will align to the pace of the student. This will allow a student to move ahead or fall behind those students attending in-person instruction. While students should expect to pace closely with other classmates, this pace will be determined by the student, parent, and Edmentum teacher.

**Note: The district has experienced a very strong level of student success and parent satisfaction with Edmentum at the secondary level over the last several years. However, at the elementary level, the district believes this option will be most successful for those students whose parents plan to be heavily involved in the learning process. This option may NOT be successful for all learners. By their age and maturity level, this option is much more likely to be properly managed by students at the secondary level.*

Option 4: K-5 Virtual Learning through a MOCAP – DESE Provider (not recommended)

As required by state law, Knob Noster students are eligible to enroll in the MOCAP program through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Edmentum is one of the approved providers through MOCAP, along with a variety of other options. This option is not recommended, as it offers the least level of support and engagement for students with their Knob Noster / Whiteman classmates, teachers, and school activities. Information on this option may be accessed at: <https://mocap.mo.gov/> Currently, Knob Noster has enrolled zero students through MOCAP in the last three years and holds concerns over the cumbersome issues that may be experienced in the enrollment and delivery process. In this option, the district tech support may also not exist, depending on which provider is selected by the parent.

Options For 6-12 Students

Option 1: 100% In-person Learning: The Highly Recommended option by the KNPS Team

During first semester, we saw the vast majority of parents choose in-person learning for their secondary student(s). This option will continue as currently offered for second semester. In the instance of a shutdown, your child's teacher will provide remote learning.

As of this memo, the district has quarantined over 300 secondary students. Six positive cases among secondary students have been traced to school-related transmission, with sports activities being a major contributing factor.

Option 2: Edmentum / Calvert Virtual Learning (top recommended virtual option)

The district has partnered with Edmentum over the last several years to create the Knob Noster Virtual Academy. Like option 1, this option is also aligned to state standards. However, this option is **not** delivered by a Knob Noster Middle School or Knob Noster High School teacher. This option includes:

1. Daily instruction delivered through Edmentum's Ed Options Academy platform. [Click here for an overview.](#) This will be supported by a state certified teacher assigned by Edmentum. Your child's teacher will be available primarily through email. [Click here](#) for an example. **In this option, parents will play a VITAL role in managing the learning process. This is a viable option for students who are self-starters and strong self-managers, or for students whose parents are available to be heavily involved in managing the learning process.**
2. The virtual "class" may include other students from Knob Noster, Whiteman, or other districts across Missouri. Student interaction in this platform will be minimal.
3. The curriculum and pace of the class will align to the pace of the student. This will allow a student to move ahead or fall behind those students attending in-person instruction. While students should expect to pace closely with other classmates, this pace will be determined by the student, parent, and Edmentum teacher.

**Note: The district has experienced a very strong level of student success and parent satisfaction with Edmentum at the secondary level over the last several years. However, at the elementary level, the district*

believes this option will be most successful for those students whose parents plan to be heavily involved in the learning process. This option may NOT be successful for all learners. By their age and maturity level, this option is much more likely to be properly managed by students at the secondary level.

Option 3: 6-12 Virtual Learning through a MOCAP – DESE Provider (not recommended)

As required by state law, Knob Noster students are eligible to enroll in the MOCAP program through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Edmentum is one of the approved providers through MOCAP, along with a variety of other options. This option is not recommended, as it offers the least level of support and engagement for students with their Knob Noster / Whiteman classmates, teachers, and school activities. Information on this option may be accessed at: <https://mocap.mo.gov/> Currently, Knob Noster has enrolled zero students through MOCAP in the last three years and holds concerns over the cumbersome issues that may be experienced in the enrollment and delivery process. In this option, the district tech support may also not exist, depending on which provider is selected by the parent.

ACTION REQUIRED BY DEC 1, 2020

After reviewing the information above, please complete the following brief survey to inform the district of your preferred learning platform for second semester. Please be sure to complete this form for EACH of your students enrolled in Knob Noster Public Schools.

[CLICK HERE](#) to complete the survey to inform us of your preference for second semester. Parents should complete this survey for each child.

TRANSPORTATION

[CLICK HERE](#) to complete a second survey **ONLY IF you have a CHANGE in transportation.**

If after reviewing this information you are still unsure of the best option for you, please indicate that in the survey and your building principal or counselor will contact you. Thank you again for your ongoing partnership!

v/r

Jerrold Wheeler