**WCPSS District Letter to VA Students 8/20/21**

**High School Virtual Academy Students,**

The first day of school is nearly upon us, and we are excited to get you off to a solid start in the WCPSS Virtual Academy. The purpose of this message is to provide you with information necessary to do this.

**Starting with Support!**

First, it is important to know that you remain a student at your base high school. Your counselor and administrator at your high school remain a resource for you to ask questions and seek help throughout the school year.

Second, your teachers are a great resource for support! You can find their contact information using the Canvas sites for the course.

Next, there are also administrators supporting the Virtual Academy. You are welcome to reach out to them for support at any time as well.  They are:

* Mr. William Morris, Assistant Principal, who will be working with all students on the alternating day schedule schools. His email address is [wamorris@wcpss.net](mailto:wamorris@wcpss.net).
* Ms. Chanin Lacy-Garner, Assistant Principal, who will be working with all students on the block schedule. Her email address is [clacy-garner@wcpss.net](mailto:clacy-garner@wcpss.net). Ms. Lacy-Garner will not begin until later in September. Students on the block schedule can also reach out to Mr. Morris until she begins.

Finally, we encourage you to use [this link](https://www.k12insight.com/Lets-Talk/embed.aspx?k=WR8Z6GLT@MDLT@DY6RXKXLT@LDLT) for any questions or needs.  Your message will go to the Virtual Academy Team and will receive a prompt reply.

**Virtual Academy Homeroom Canvas Site**

We have enrolled all high school Virtual Academy students into a Canvas site called “[High School Virtual Academy Homeroom](https://wcpss.instructure.com/courses/698787).” This space will be a resource throughout the school year for announcements, bell schedules, resources, and more. Please be sure to check it frequently.  If you are unable to access the course, please click [here](https://wcpss.instructure.com/enroll/GB4MKE).

**Class Schedules**

Most Virtual Academy courses will be taught by WCPSS teachers using the Canvas platform. There will, however, be a significant number of courses taught through the NC Virtual Public School, or NCVPS.  The biggest difference between these two course formats is that WCPSS courses include live instruction while NCVPS courses do not. But there is a certified teacher for each course who will check in with students to regularly assess progress and provide feedback.

We have made this transition to NCVPS for some courses to ensure that students have a stable, consistent learning experience with highly qualified teachers throughout the semester as opposed to having long-term substitute teachers while we continue hiring.

Due to our transition to NCVPS for many courses, most schools are still working to finalize adjustments to schedules. Students can see their schedules in PowerSchool, but should anticipate that these will continue to change through the beginning of the week as schools get students enrolled in NCVPS.

Requests for course / schedule changes must happen through your base school.

**What to Expect on Day 1**

All high school Virtual Academy students will engage in an online orientation on Monday, August 23.  The goal of this orientation is to provide students with a solid foundation for their learning. This will include:

* An orientation session that will be streamed from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 23.  Students can access this orientation through the High School Virtual Academy Homeroom Canvas site. During this session, staff will provide an overview of key information as well as some of the typical beginning of the year information.
* Orientation sessions will be held to focus on the unique needs of freshmen and seniors.
* Orientation sessions focused on helping students have a strong foundation for how to engage a course through Canvas and/or NCVPS.

Students will start logging into their class links on Tuesday, August 24. At that point, instruction will begin with your teacher.

**Being Prepared for Day 1**

The best thing students can do to promote success for the first day of school is to ensure that they are able to log into their WakeID. Please visit [this resource site](https://mywakeid.wcpss.net/login/) if you need support with your WakeID.

Many of your Virtual Academy courses will be located in Canvas.  To access these courses, please log-in at the [Wake ID Portal](http://wakeid.wcpss.net/) and click on the blue Canvas icon.  You will be able to see your courses on the first day of school.

You can also watch a video of these steps here: [Logging in and Accessing Canvas Courses](https://wcpss.instructuremedia.com/embed/d9dc9b9e-16b6-4577-9eeb-a407b9b204a7).

**Questions**

As questions come or you need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are committed to doing what we can to support a successful, positive school year. For questions about schedules, please contact your school. Other questions can be submitted [here](https://www.k12insight.com/Lets-Talk/embed.aspx?k=WR8Z6GLT@MDLT@DY6RXKXLT@LDLT).

If you should experience technical difficulty and need tech support, please reach out to the Student Help Desk at (919) 664-5700 for assistance.

Enjoy a great first week, and let us know how we can support you!