



Trailblazer Times

August, 20, 2021

Dear Virtual Academy Families,

FEEL LIKE YOU'RE FALLING BEHIND?

Beginning a new school year can be a challenge for families. Add on top of that being in a new virtual program. We realize that learning a new system can be challenging. We appreciate your flexibility and hard work these first few weeks. In order to stay ahead of the game, here are some things to remember as you work:

- 1) **Develop a daily schedule!** Create a schedule that allows you to complete the work you need to complete each day. Slow and steady wins the race. No one likes lots of pressure to complete assignments at the last minute. Working a little bit each day will help keep you calm and confident!
- 2) **Use your calendar!** This magical tool allows you to see when due dates are approaching, as well as links to meetings. You can place your own reminders in your calendar as well.
- 3) **Ask for help!** Our LCS Virtual Academy staff are here to support you in doing your best. Please email your teacher(s), mentors, or our support staff. We will troubleshoot any problems in person or virtually and help you come up with a plan to help you.

WATCH THIS! Watch this high school student talk about self-motivation and the key to success!
[Video Link](#)

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Don't forget to do your [Virtual Academy High School Daily Check](#) EVERY DAY.

CANVAS PARENT PAIRING CODES

Parents and guardians are now able to observe their students! [Follow this link](#) for instructions on how to do so.

TEXTBOOK UPDATE

We have been working with the LCS Textbook Coordinator on securing the remaining textbooks/novels. We have received notification that we should have all textbooks early next week, with the exception of two English novels. Parents, we will reach out to you once they come in and schedule a time for a pick-up.

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTEREST

Do you have interest in supporting the Virtual Academy through a Parent Advisory Committee? This team of parents would meet monthly to discuss how to best support the students in the Virtual Academy and discuss ways to promote the program. If you are interested, please complete this [Parent Advisory Interest form](#) by August 27. Thank you!

ZOOM MEETING AND OTHER TECH TIPS

Please make sure you are arriving at your zoom meetings on time. Try and encourage students to get into the habit of arriving early to ensure they aren't experiencing any connection issues. If you arrive early at your zoom meeting, you can wait in the zoom "waiting room" until the zoom class starts.

Check out this Tech Cheat Sheet for other technology tips and how tos.

[Check Cheat Sheet](#)

[Middle School Zoom Schedule Sample Sheet](#)

IXL DIAGNOSTIC REMINDER

All students in grades 2-10 should be completing their IXL diagnostic assessments in Math and Reading. Our teachers are reminding students to do this each day but please be sure to check and see if your student has completed these assessments. **The due date is 8/27**. The link to IXL is <https://www.ixl.com/signin/lynchburgcity>. Students use their LCS log-in credentials. They can also access it through Classlink.

SEPTEMBER IS "STUMP THE TEACHER" MONTH!

All students are encouraged to participate in our "Stump the Teacher" competition! Students will submit their questions using our ["Stump the Teacher Form,"](#) and each Friday, the Virtual Academy will livestream Virtual Academy teachers answering those submitted questions. Questions must have an objective, singular answer. For example, "what is the abbreviation for magnesium?" or "what is the capital of Libya?"

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Each month, we will be asking our LCS Virtual Academy community to provide valuable feedback on our "glows" and "grows." Just like our teachers provide timely, constructive feedback to our students, we want you to provide constructive feedback that we can take and use to make our program the best it can be. Be on the lookout for a survey next Friday and every month! Thank you for being a part of our family!