BLENDED VIRTUAL LEARNING PROGRAM FIT ASSESSMENT

Prepared by the Office of Research and Program Evaluation

INTRODUCTION

Students and families interested in enrolling in a Blended Virtual Learning Program (BVLP) at Swan Creek School (SCS) can use this Fit Assessment to learn about the characteristics of a successful BVLP student and determine if a BVLP is a good fit for their student and family. This document begins with a brief overview of research on successful online learners. The second page provides a self- assessment tool for families to use when deciding to enroll in the HCPS BVLP at SCS.

ATTRIBUTES OF A SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL STUDENT

Research on factors that contribute to success in virtual learning environments find that students need skills and competencies in **core academic areas** (e.g., reading, writing, and math) and **technology** (e.g., digital competencies) as well as certain **behavioral skills** (e.g., self-regulation, maturity, and engagement) to be successful in a virtual learning program.

- Studies show that students with **strong foundational academic** skills are more likely to succeed in virtual learning settings. This may include students with more course credits and fewer course attempts overall.

- Students should also have a **basic understanding of online education technology platforms** to be confident and motivated in their virtual studies. This understanding extends beyond technology use in non-educational settings to include experience with virtual *learning* formats specifically.

- **Self-regulation and other behavioral attributes** also support virtual students' motivation and organization, which are important success factors in a setting with fewer opportunities for peer interaction and engagement.

Good Time Management	Effective Communication
Independent Study Habits	Self-Motivation
Academic Readiness	Technological Preparedness

Source: Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute

ATTRIBUTES OF A SUCCESSFUL HOME VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Students also need the physical tools and an at-home learning environment that will support virtual learning success. Attributes of a successful home learning environment broadly relate to factors that support a student's ability to consistently engage and participate in virtual learning lessons and assignments. Students need access to technology, physical space, and adult support to be successful in virtual learning.

High Speed Internet & Computer

Quiet Learning & Workspace

Adult Support for Questions & Monitoring

BVLP FIT ASSESSMENT

HCPS Students and their families can use this assessment tool to understand if they or their student have the characteristics and supports that will lead to a successful experience in the BVLP. Use these results in discussions both within your family and with your teachers and school guidance counselors when deciding if the SCS BVLP is a good fit.

Student:	Yes	Maybe or Sometimes	No or Not Sure
STUDENT ACADEMIC SKILLS			
Student passes their courses/classes on first attempt			
Student is earning enough credits each semester or year to graduate on time with their class			
STUDENT TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS			
Student has prior *successful* experience with hybrid, blended, or fully online learning technology			
Student can independently navigate or have adult support (K-5) required to navigate and use online learning platforms (able to type and use a mouse)			
STUDENT BEHAVIORAL SKILLS			
Student can set their own schedule for school or homework and consistently keep to that schedule			
Student is successful in communicating their needs and questions directly with their teacher(s)			
Student is able to set their own goals for learning and working to achieve these goals			
Student takes responsibility for completing their school or homework on time			
Student enjoys learning about new topics or skills independently			
HOME ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORTS			
Student has access to a stable high-speed internet connection at home			
Student has access to a dedicated computer to complete virtual learning at home			
Student has access to a distraction free environment to focus on virtual learning lessons and assignments			
Student has access to an adult that can answer questions and monitor participation at home; and has support with obtaining and organizing materials required for instruction			

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