

What is the Dunklin R-5 Virtual Blackcat?

The Dunklin R-5 Virtual Blackcat is a virtual learning opportunity for students during the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be assigned to a district teacher and learn from home 5 days a week. Most learning experiences will closely mirror in-person learning standards and will utilize the same curriculum, pacing, and assessments. Most learning will be asynchronous with office hours for support. [Grading practices](#) will also mirror in-person learning and **will not** be “hold harmless” as they were in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who are unsuccessful in the virtual environment will be required to return to in seat instruction as described in this [communication](#).

Learning will be asynchronous with opportunities for synchronous learning at times. Synchronous learning will be a two-way, real-time, **live** instruction between teachers and students through the computer or other electronic devices. Student attendance during the live Google Meet sessions is highly encouraged; however, every effort will be made to record each live session for later view should the need arise. Asynchronous learning is an academic learning experience where students engage in the learning materials **on their own time**, interacting intermittently with the teacher via the electronic device.

Each week students will receive the learning plan and assignments for the week for their classes. Students and families should expect to learn for an amount of time equivalent to in-person learning. A full day of in seat learning is traditionally about 6 hours a day. To help navigate and monitor your student’s engagement, we provided the chart below that includes the minimum numbers to look for regarding your student’s engagement.

Grade	Minimum amount of dedicated learning time each week	Minimum amount of dedicated learning time each day
Pre-K	11 hours	2 hours 10 min
K-2	12 hours	2 hours 30 min
3-5	16.5 hours	3 hours 30 min
6-8	20 hours	4 hours
9-12	25 hours	5 hours

Course Offerings

Most classes will continue to enroll online students. However, there are some classes that may need to be adapted to fit the online model of learning while other classes will be suspended for a year as online offerings due to the inability to offer the course in an effective manner virtually.

Dunklin R-5 Expectations for Virtual Blackcat Students

- Students will dedicate appropriate time to learning, using the time on task recommendations or as guided by the teacher.
- Students will login daily to access Google Classroom.
- Students will identify a comfortable and quiet space to learn and study.
- Students will engage in online learning activities daily.
- Students will submit all assignments by due dates.
- Students will be ready to learn each day.
- Students will show their face on the screen to engage with the teacher and classmates virtually.
- Students will actively participate in class.
- Students will follow the Dunklin R-5 dress code guidelines when working with teachers and other students.
- Students are expected to complete assignments every day and will be graded on their engagement and mastery weekly.
- Students will make every effort to attend virtual meetings. The individual school's virtual meeting schedule will be communicated by the school and followed as closely as possible.
- Students will communicate with teachers and utilize office hours to receive support in their learning.
- Students may be expected to collaborate with other virtual students through discussion boards, virtual meetings, document creation, etc.

Dunklin R-5 Expectations for Virtual Blackcat Families

- Families will work with the school district to ensure that they have the proper technology needed for virtual learning.
- Families will monitor district communications.
- Students will log in with their Google credentials.
- Families will maintain communication with teachers, the school counselor, and administrators to partner in the success of the students.
- Families will engage children in daily conversation regarding assignments.
- Families will monitor time spent engaging in virtual learning and reflect with students on their weekly engagement report from the teacher.
- Families will support emotional balance of students by providing time for physical activity and play.
- Families will create a comfortable and quiet space to learn and study.

Dunklin R-5 Expectations for Virtual Blackcat Teachers

- Teachers will use Google Classroom as the learning platform to deliver and collect student work.
- Teachers will post learning schedules and assignments weekly prior to the start of the school week.
- Teachers will provide accommodations/modifications to meet IEPs and 504 Plans for learners.
- Teachers will communicate regularly with parents regarding expectations and student progress.
- Teachers will update gradebooks weekly.
- Teachers will offer office time twice a week.
- Teachers will report engagement of students each week to parents.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Dunklin R-5 Virtual Blackcat

[FAQs Virtual Blackcat](#)