

Frequently Asked Questions

IS LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL A RESPONSE TO COVID-19?

No. Discussions regarding an online learning program for Livingston Parish students began in 2016. The program was presented to the board in February 2020 and has been in development since then. If there are concerns regarding returning to school due to COVID-19, contact your home-based school.

HOW DO I ENROLL FULL-TIME IN LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL?

Enrollment in the full-time online program of Livingston Virtual takes place before the beginning of each semester (Fall and Spring) of the school year. Students/parents should complete the Livingston Virtual Interest Application online at www.LivingstonVirtual.org and submit it electronically during the application window. Applications must be completed in full, including the submission of all requested documents. Once the application and documents have been reviewed, the Livingston Virtual Director will contact the student/parent regarding the next steps in the enrollment process.

IS THERE A DEADLINE TO ENROLL FULL-TIME IN LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL?

Yes. The Priority Application Deadline for applying for the Fall Semester is July 31st, and the Priority Deadline for applying for the Spring Semester is November 30th. There are limited spots available, and applications and all requested documentation will be reviewed by the LPPS Admissions Committee in the order in which they are received.

IS LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL AN ACCREDITED PROGRAM?

Livingston Virtual is a program of the Livingston Parish Public School system. Our high school diploma and all course credits earned through Livingston Virtual are being granted by the student's home-based school in the Livingston Parish Public Schools system. All Livingston Parish Public Schools are state-approved public schools.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL AND TRADITIONAL BRICK-AND-MORTAR HIGH SCHOOLS?

The content standards in the curriculum of the Livingston Virtual program and the curriculum of traditional brick-and-mortar schools are the same. There is a significant difference in the flexibility offered to all Livingston Virtual students in the way they can earn their courses/credits online.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Livingston Virtual is free to Livingston Parish Residents. The program will assess each student a yearly Technology/Supply Fee of \$100 for technology upgrades, copy paper, etc. Fees may be paid online at www.LivingstonVirtual.org. There is no charge for online payments.

CAN I USE A DIPLOMA FROM LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL TO ENROLL INTO COLLEGE, OBTAIN A SCHOLARSHIP, OR GAIN EMPLOYMENT?

Yes. Livingston Virtual offers a standard high school diploma that meets state and school board requirements. Students will receive a diploma from the home-based schools issued by Livingston

Parish Public Schools. Our graduates will be able to go on to post-secondary education or employment opportunities or to join the military.

IS LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE?

Livingston Virtual is a public-school program serving students in grades 6-12 residing in Livingston Parish only. If you meet Livingston Virtual admission requirements and have determined that online learning is suitable for your needs, you are encouraged to apply for enrollment. The online program will offer students a well-rounded and diversified learning experience.

WHO WILL BE LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL STUDENTS?

Any student seeking a quality education through a flexible format is a potential Livingston Virtual student. Livingston Virtual students are students who will benefit from individualized instruction. Highly motivated students who prefer to accelerate, students with medical issues, or home school students are candidates for the diverse student population. The program will provide the flexibility many families are seeking while providing the resources and supports necessary for students to succeed. It is a program for students earning first-time credit in core and elective courses. Highly motivated students seeking to graduate earlier than the standard four years in high school must meet college and career readiness standards prior to seeking early graduation approval from the Livingston Virtual Director.

WHAT TYPES OF STUDENTS WILL FIND SUCCESS AT LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL?

Students seek enrollment in an online learning environment like the Livingston Virtual program for many different reasons. A successful online learner is a motivated self-starter and is committed to the success of his or her education. The most successful students will have the following characteristics in common: superior time-management skills, excellent communication skills, awesome self-advocacy skills, and fantastic intrinsic motivational skills. Students must be able to stay on-task and have the desire to perform at their full potential. Before deciding whether the college-prep courses and high school diploma programs at Livingston Virtual are right for the student, we suggest that he or she speak with a school counselor regarding the various academic options available to the student.

IS LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL LESS CHALLENGING THAN OTHER TRADITIONAL ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOLS?

No. As an accredited school program, Livingston Virtual offers a flexible alternative for students. It is not an easier option than traditional accredited high schools. All courses are written at grade level and require an average of two to three hours of focused study per course on a daily basis. This is to ensure the student will complete courses within the required time frame. Our courses engage students in real-life projects, requiring the use of critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and the ability to apply the knowledge they have acquired.

ARE STUDENTS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS OR OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

Students enrolled in Livingston Virtual are eligible to participate in home-based school extracurricular activities, including graduation, ring ceremony, school dances, and sporting events. Due to some team sports requirements during the academic day, the option for students to participate in those extracurricular activities does not fit into the virtual program. However, students wishing to participate in sports such as bowling, golf, gymnastics, swimming, and tennis may be eligible to do so pending

try-outs at the home-based school. Students must meet the same extracurricular activity eligibility requirements as students enrolled in the traditional day program at brick-and-mortar schools. Online students will have to follow all of the same school policies as traditional students. Livingston Virtual is awaiting a review of the program by the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine if the program meets the requirements for college-bound student-athletes to practice, compete, and receive athletically-related financial aid at a Division I or II school.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY STUDENT IS MEETING ACADEMIC GOALS?

All courses include meaningful assessments of student learning. Teachers are in regular contact with all students. In addition, students are required to take standardized tests to meet promotion and graduation standards and so that their learning can be compared to students statewide.

AS A PARENT, WILL I BE KEPT INFORMED OF MY STUDENT'S PROGRESS?

Absolutely! As a parent, you will likely receive more updates and information about your student's progress than ever before. We strongly feel that a parent's involvement in a student's education is critical. Livingston Virtual teachers will provide frequent online reports to parents. You can always see how your student is performing by logging in to the parent/guardian account(s) or by contacting your student's teacher or the Livingston Virtual Director.

WHAT IF THE STUDENT HAS QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS WHILE TAKING A COURSE?

Teachers at Livingston Virtual will be available via face-to-face interactions on site, messages, video conferences, emails, or telephone calls to facilitate learning and to provide feedback and support as needed. Teachers are eager to assist any way possible to ensure student success.

ARE THERE ANY BOOKS?

No! Materials are included in the learning management system (EDMENTUM). Students are encouraged to have basic school supplies like binders, planners, and writing utensils so they can take notes and stay organized. Students can also print off many of the online materials should they feel it is beneficial to their learning styles.

WHO TEACHES THE ONLINE COURSES AT LIVINGSTON VIRTUAL?

All courses are taught by highly qualified and certified teachers who facilitate learning and provide support and feedback as needed. You can be sure that quality in education is our #1 goal!

WHEN DO STUDENTS LOGIN TO CLASSES?

Anytime! Livingston Virtual is an online program specializing in student-led independent learning. Curriculum and coursework are housed in an internet-based learning management system (EDMENTUM), so students have 24/7 access to classes.

WHAT KIND OF DEVICE WILL A STUDENT NEED?

Students will be issued a Livingston Parish Public Schools-purchased laptop. Tablets, iPads, and even smart phones can be used for small, simple tasks or for checking grades and teacher feedback. However, they are not ideal for completing assignments; a fully functioning device is best for utilizing all the features of the learning management system (Edmentum).

IS THE PROGRAM'S ONLINE ENVIRONMENT SAFE?

Livingston Virtual will offer a safe online environment. Staff members will monitor school virtual classrooms and discussion boards. Staff members will regularly archive and review chat conversations. Livingston Virtual has a Student Communications Policy outlining acceptable Digital Citizenship skills as well as other policies and procedures regarding student communications. Livingston Parish Public Schools also has a comprehensive Acceptable Use Policy, to which all students and parents must agree.

WILL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BE AVAILABLE?

Connectivity issues with WIFI should be directed to the student's internet provider. Technical issues with the Livingston Virtual program-issued device should be directed to the student's teachers or the Livingston Virtual Director.