

KVA+

Katy Virtual Academy
Katy Independent School District

2020-2021





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INTRODUCTION

Katy ISD has developed the Katy Virtual Academy (KVA) for families who choose the virtual learning option for their students beginning Fall 2020. KVA is available for students in grades PreK through 12th grade. While there is no tuition for students to attend, some secondary courses may require course fees as outlined in the [2020-21 Secondary Course Catalog](#). The information in this document provides families with more specific information about KVA and virtual learning in Katy ISD.

Virtual Learning Tools

Katy ISD offers a host of online resources to support students, families, and teachers in the virtual learning environment. Many of these resources are outlined in the following chart and some are linked for additional information.

MyKaty Cloud	Audience: Teachers, staff, and students
Access digital resources through single sign-on. Best practices: use the Chrome web browser, and ensure Webpass is enabled .	
Canvas Learning Management System	Audience: Teachers, staff, students, and parents/guardians
Katy ISD’s online teaching and learning platform where students turn in work, view assignments, collaborate with peers, and engage in lesson activities.	
Home Access Center	Audience: Students, and parents/guardians
The Home Access Center provides an online grade book where parents and guardians can view helpful student information to support and guide their children through the educational process.	
Email	Audience: Teachers, staff, students, and parents/guardians
Teachers will inform parents of their email address. Parents may use this digital method of corresponding with their child’s teachers. Students in grades 6 through 12 have access to a Katy ISD email account and may correspond using Office 365 Online through MyKaty Cloud.	

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Zoom, Microsoft Teams, & Adobe Connect	Audience: Teachers and Students
Tools for live, virtual instruction between teachers and students. Your student's teachers will invite students with a unique URL specific to their course.	
Microsoft Office	Audience: Teachers and Students
Microsoft Office contains One Drive, Word, Outlook, Excel, PowerPoint, and other applications that both teachers and students can use to save, create, or open files.	
Google Applications for Education	Audience: Teachers and Students
This is an online tool that is used for the creation of documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.	
District & Campus Websites	Audience: Teachers, staff, students, and parents/guardians
This is public information for everyone to view. District and campus staff will update.	
Remind	Audience: Teachers, staff, students, and parents/guardians
An optional communication tool used between teachers, parents, and students. Users can configure their preferences of receiving the information through email, text, or the application.	
<i>There are many digital resources to support the curriculum that are not listed above. Teachers will advise student on other digital resources through the learning management system.</i>	

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Katy ISD is devoted to ensuring the best virtual learning environment for our students and we all play a critical role in supporting KVA. Below is an outline of the roles and responsibilities for different key stakeholders.

District Personnel

Administration	Provide vision, leadership and support.
Teaching & Learning	<p>Facilitate the curation of digital resources to support virtual learning opportunities that align with the Katy ISD curriculum.</p> <p>Provide professional learning for teachers to implement best practices for high-quality instruction that is grounded in formative assessments to monitor student learning.</p> <p>Provide curriculum in the form of interactive unit plans along with the scope and sequence aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and Katy ISD virtual learning resources.</p>
Human Resources	Facilitate and support the hiring process to identify high quality teachers who are well adept at teaching and facilitating instruction in the virtual learning environment.
Instructional Technology	Facilitate and support students, parents, and teachers with technology implementation or problems using our Katy ISD Help Systems.

Campus Personnel

Principals and Assistant Principals	Provide leadership and support to students and families.
Teachers	<p>Follow Katy ISD curriculum and resources, which are aligned to state standards (TEKS), provide learning opportunities, which are informed by data and differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.</p> <p>Participate in district/campus Professional Learning Communities in order to stay aligned with peers during virtual learning days.</p>

	<p>Participate in training opportunities provided by the District to support high-quality teaching and learning in a virtual environment.</p> <p>Implement instructional accommodations for students in special programs such as, Special Education, Section 504, English as a Second Language, Bilingual Education, and Gifted and Talented.</p> <p>Maintain regular and consistent communication with students and families.</p>
<p>Library Media Specialists</p>	<p>Provide instruction to students and families on how to access online and physical books, and digital resources to enhance the learning experience for all learners.</p> <p>Participate in Professional Learning Communities and/or work with teachers to provide lessons and support for the Katy ISD curriculum and resources.</p> <p>Participate in training opportunities provided by the District.</p> <p>Actively review and maintain all resources within the library.</p>
<p>Counselors</p>	<p>Provide all students with social/emotional support and academic guidance.</p> <p>Facilitate guidance lessons and provide resources supporting students’ social-emotional needs.</p> <p>Monitor students’ academic progress and maintain personal graduation plans for all high school students.</p> <p>Consult individually with students for academic planning.</p> <p>Facilitate implementation of trauma-informed practices with school staff.</p> <p>Maintain regular virtual office hours to provide students and parents a consistent opportunity for consultation and counseling resources.</p>

Students can be successful in the virtual learning environment by:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Knowing their schedule and being prepared to meet with their teacher as guided ● Attending and being on time to each class ● Making sure their technology is ready ● Checking Canvas for instruction, assignments, and resources throughout the day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identifying a comfortable and quiet place to learn and study ● Engaging in online learning activities ● Submitting assignments by due dates ● Seeking additional help from teachers and/or counselors when needed |
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Students: Getting Started on Day 1:

- Know your Katy ISD username and password. If you do not know this information, click [here](#) for help.
- Go to the Home Access Center (HAC) and view your schedule.
 - PreK-4th grade students will need their parent/guardian to login to the HAC
 - 5th – 12th grade students can login to the HAC using their student credentials
- Launch the Google Chrome browser on your device.
 - If using a personal device, make sure it is up to date, click [here](#) for help.
- Go to [MyKaty Cloud](https://mykaty.katyisd.org) : <https://mykaty.katyisd.org>
- Ensure you have Webpass enabled, click [here](#) for help.
- Find Canvas (under the Elementary or Secondary tab on MyKaty Cloud):
 - Click on the course that contains the name of your first class (refer to schedule in HAC).
 - Be on time to each course throughout the day, as attendance will be taken.

Your teacher will have instructions for you about content and an online meeting link.

Parents/Guardians can assist in ensuring the success of their children by:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring that a computer device and internet access are available at home<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Students in grades 3rd through 12th must have a keyboard• Monitoring communication from the Katy Virtual Academy• Ensuring that your child knows their usernames and passwords for instructional resources• Contacting the Help Desk as needed for assistance with Internet access<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Complete the Help Form | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring the district and school communications for up-to-date information• Maintaining communication with your child's teachers• Engaging your child in conversations about their assignments• Monitoring your child's online and offline learning• Supporting your child's emotional well-being by providing regular time for physical activity• Encouraging and supporting daily routines, being on time online is just as important for learning and attendance |
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Parents/Guardians: Getting Started on Day 1:

- Technology Parent Online Meetings will be offered via Zoom in the month of August that cover how parents and students can access and utilize many of Katy ISD's digital resources.
- Parent meeting dates and times can be found on the [Parent Tech Help](#) webpage.

INSTRUCTIONAL SCHEDULE/Framework

- Students will engage in two-way, real-time, live instruction between teachers and students delivered through technology devices.
- Teacher interaction and availability will be predictable, planned and clearly communicated.
- Students can access support from teachers when needed and will know how and when to access this support.
- Students will receive clear instructions on how and when to engage with academic material on a daily basis.
- The instructional schedule will meet the minimum number of daily minutes for full day funding (at least 3 hours for elementary and at least 4 hours for secondary).
 - Daily instruction will include a blend of direct instruction and asynchronous practice but does not require a student to logon and logoff multiple times throughout the day.

**Elementary
PreK-5th**

**Jr. High
6th-8th**

**High
9th-12th**

ELEMENTARY: PreK – 5TH

Elementary

<p>Instruction Delivery Methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Katy Virtual Academy teachers will follow the same Katy ISD curriculum as face-to-face teachers which is developed from the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards. The curriculum includes activities, engaging instruction, assessments, student collaboration, and time for age-appropriate, independent practice. • Virtual learning activities include live, daily interaction to provide direct instruction, student supports to facilitate class discussions, and to practice new concepts. Virtual learning is offered by teachers to students, through Zoom. • When science labs are appropriate, teachers will provide simulations and/or teachers may host live demonstrations with students, virtually. KVA students will also have access to custom science kits, provided by the district, which will include needed materials for various at-home experiences. • When mathematics manipulatives are needed, students will utilize virtual manipulatives, basic materials at home and/or their custom mathematics kit provided by the district. • Students will be provided with digital and hardcopy books specific to their reading levels.
<p>Teacher Interaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will access quality learning resources through the Katy ISD Interactive Curriculum housed in Canvas. • KVA teachers will employ engaging methods to allow for interaction with both the teacher and fellow students. • Teachers will follow a predictable schedule which will provide time for continuous learning in all subject areas including physical education. The daily schedule will include maximum engagement of students through collaborative learning activities and technology tools. • Teachers are available during other times for extra student supports or small group instruction. Teachers will communicate office hour schedules with students and parents. • The day will include intervals of time for students to work independently on various assignments asynchronously or to receive additional support from the teacher.
<p>Student Assessment and Feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will assess student learning formally and informally through assignments, discussions, participation, projects, performance tasks and campus-based assessments. • When new concepts are introduced that may have prerequisite gaps from Spring 2020, teachers may pre-assess to determine how to customize lesson plans. • When needed, teachers may assign assessments within Canvas or other available technology tools. • KVA students in grades 2nd through 5th, will participate in District Learning Assessments using AWARE online. • Teachers will provide feedback in various formats.

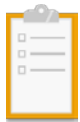
**Elementary Grades PreK – 2nd:
Sample Schedule**

Subject Area	Length of time in minutes
Morning Meeting	15
ELA (all literacy components)	140
Specials / Teacher Planning / Office Hours	45
Math	60
Lunch/Break	60
Science	30
Social Studies	30
Dreambox K-2	30
Teacher Office Hours	30

**Elementary Grades 3rd - 5th:
Sample Schedule**

Subject Area	Length of time in minutes
Morning Meeting	15
ELA (all literacy components)	130
Specials / Teacher Planning / Office Hours	45
Math	80
Lunch/Break	60
Science	50
Social Studies	20
Dreambox	20
Teacher Office Hours	30

Note: KVA students may be asked to pick up instructional materials to be used at home during virtual learning.



[**KVA Elementary School Supply List**](#)

JUNIOR HIGH: 6TH – 8TH



<p>Instruction Delivery Methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katy ISD curriculum follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards and is implemented virtually through Canvas. The curriculum includes activities, direct instruction, assessments, student collaboration, projects, and performance tasks. • Virtual learning activities include live, daily interaction to provide direct instruction, student supports, class discussions, and time for students to practice new skills. • Virtual learning is offered, by teachers to students, through Zoom. • When labs are necessary in science courses, teachers will utilize the Gizmos online program for online labs and simulations and/or teachers may host live demonstrations with students, virtually. • When math manipulatives must be utilized for standard mastery, the online program called “Braining Camp” will be utilized. • Students will have access to digital novels for book clubs or class novel studies through the district program, SORA.
<p>Teacher Interaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers interact with students each day, live, following a schedule. • Teachers will be available during other times for extra student supports or small group instruction. • Teachers will communicate office hour schedules with students and parents.
<p>Student Assessment & Feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers assess student learning through assignments, quizzes, discussions, participation, projects, tests, and performance tasks. • When new concepts are introduced that may have prerequisite gaps from Spring 2020, teachers may pre-assess to determine how to customize lesson plans. • When needed, teachers may assign assessments within Canvas utilizing Proctorio which will provide test security to ensure an accurate representation of student learning.

Junior High Sample Schedule

8:55am – 4:05pm	
Period 1	ELAR
Period 2	ELAR
Period 3	Math
Period 4	Science
Period 5	Lunch
Period 6	Advisory
Period 7	Social Studies
Period 8	PE
Period 9	Elective

Junior High Supply List:

- PC/Laptop with a camera is preferred (personal or Katy ISD owned)
- 1 spiral notebook for each class in order to set up a place for notes and/or interactive notebooks
- *Calculator
- Graph paper
- Access to pencils, highlighters, black ink pen, blue ink pen, and red ink pen

*Students in 7th grade KAP math, 8th grade math, or Algebra I will need a TI Nspire CX or TI Nspire CXII calculator. Math teachers will provide further information during the first week of school.

HIGH SCHOOL: 9TH – 12TH



<p>Instruction Delivery Methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katy ISD curriculum follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards and is implemented virtually through Canvas. The curriculum includes activities, direct instruction, assessments, student collaboration, projects, and performance tasks. • Virtual learning activities include live, daily interaction to provide direct instruction, student supports, class discussions, and time for students to practice new skills. • Virtual learning is offered, by teachers to students, through Zoom. • When labs are necessary in science courses, teachers will utilize the Gizmos online program for online labs and simulations and/or teachers may host live demonstrations with students, virtually. For AP science courses where in-person labs are needed, AP science students may need to attend a before or after school live lab on campus. • Students will have access to digital novels for books clubs or class novel studies through the district program, SORA.
<p>Teacher Interaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers interact with students each day, live, following a schedule. • Teachers will be available during other times for extra student supports or small group instruction. • Teachers will communicate office hour schedules with students and parents.
<p>Student Assessment & Feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers assess student learning through assignments, quizzes, discussions, participation, projects, tests, and performance tasks. • When new concepts are introduced that may have prerequisite gaps from Spring 2020, teachers may pre-assess to determine how to customize lesson plans. • When needed, teachers may assign assessments within Canvas utilizing Proctorio which will provide test security to ensure an accurate representation of student learning.

High School Sample Schedule

7:15am – 2:35pm	
Period 1	English
Period 2	Foreign Language
Period 3	Social Studies
Period 4	Science
Lunch	Lunch
Period 5	Math
Period 6	Elective
Period 7	Elective

High School Supply List:

- PC/Laptop with a camera is preferred (Chromebooks are also acceptable)
- 1 spiral notebook for each class in order to set up a place for notes and/or interactive notebooks
- Graph paper
- *Calculator
- Access to pencils, highlighters, black ink pen, blue ink pen, and red ink pen

*Students in Algebra I, Algebraic Reasoning, PreCalculus, Statistics, AP Statistics, and AP Calculus AB & BC will need a TI Nspire CX or TI Nspire CXII calculator. All other math courses will need access to an online or physical calculator with basic functions. Math teachers will provide further information during the first week of school regarding calculator use and options for online calculators such as Desmos.

High School: Types of Assessments

At the high school level there are many different types of assessments. The following chart outlines these types of assessments.

Note: Students may need to take some tests in person while attending KVA.

Assessments	Assessment Process in a Virtual Environment	Assessment Level
Anecdotal Records/Participation	Zoom, during live instruction. Formative assessments - i.e. exit slip, comments on Canvas, mini quiz, discussion, running records.	Teacher
Unit Assessments, Projects, Performance Tasks	Virtual, through Canvas online, utilizing Proctorio within Canvas for test security at the discretion of the teacher.	Teacher
District-Level Assessment (DLA)	Administered online once in the fall and once in the spring in each core content area.	District
EOC	The State of Texas End of Course Exams referred to as its acronym EOC, are a series of standardized tests used in Texas public primary and secondary schools to assess	State

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	a student's achievements and knowledge learned in the grade level. It tests curriculum taught from the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.	
TSIA	The Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) is a series of placement tests for students enrolling in public colleges and universities in Texas. The tests help Texas schools determine whether you're ready for college-level courses in the areas of reading, writing, and math. If the student is not ready for college-level courses, the tests help determine what types of courses or intervention will best prepare you for college-level work.	State
AP Exams	AP exams are the culmination of year-long Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP exams (with few exceptions) consist of a multiple-choice section and a free-response section. Exam registration occurs in November.	National
SAT/ACT	The SAT/ACT is a standardized test administered by the College Board. The SAT along with the ACT are the primary entrance exams used by colleges and universities in the United States.	National
PSAT	The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) test is given to sophomores and juniors to prepare for the SAT. Dates and times will be communicated.	National

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Pre-K to 12th Grade

Dyslexia Intervention

Students identified to receive dyslexia intervention services in the general education setting will receive small group dyslexia intervention compliant with the student's Individual Accommodation Plans (Section 504) or Individualized Education Plans (Special Education) and the provisions outlined in the Texas Dyslexia Handbook. Questions regarding dyslexia intervention should be directed to KVAspecialprograms@katyisd.org.

Bilingual Programs

Students participating in Bilingual Education will receive bilingual instruction in the virtual environment. Linguistic supports will be provided to enhance biliteracy in listening, speaking, reading and writing skills across all content areas. Specific questions about the Bilingual virtual learning opportunities can be sent to KVAspecialprograms@katyisd.org.

ESL Programs

Students participating in ESL will receive linguistic supports in the virtual environment that are commensurate to their English proficiency in order to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills across all content areas. Specific questions about the ESL virtual learning opportunities can be sent to KVAspecialprograms@katyisd.org.

Gifted and Talented Services

Students identified as gifted and talented will receive services in the general education setting in both elementary and secondary. Elementary GT students will be serviced through the Challenge Program. Secondary GT students will receive services through their AP/GT and/or KAP/GT classes. Both of which will be in accordance with the Gifted and Talented State Plan. Questions regarding GT services should be directed to KVAspecialprograms@katyisd.org.

Reading, Writing & Math Intervention

Students identified to receive supplemental reading or math support at the elementary level or students recommended for placement in a reading, math or writing intervention course at the secondary level may receive these services virtually through KVA. Questions regarding intervention programs should be directed to KVAspecialprograms@katyisd.org.

Special Education Programs

Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) will have the opportunity to engage in virtual instruction. Parents who select virtual learning will be provided the opportunity to convene a meeting to discuss and revise their supports and services to ensure we meet the needs of our students virtually. Specific questions about special education virtual learning opportunities can be sent to SpecialEdQuestions@katyisd.org.

Junior High & High School only

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Many Career and Technical Education courses can be taught remotely. Some of these courses may require in-person instruction in addition to KVA remote instruction in order to satisfy curricular requirements which are aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills because they require specialized equipment, direct supervision of required hands-on activities and/or access to specialized equipment and technology. The in-person instruction may require students to participate before the start or at the end of the instructional day. [List of courses that may require in-person instruction.](#)

Fine Arts

Some Fine Arts courses may require some in-person instruction. [List of courses that may require in-person instruction.](#) Band and Orchestra students who will require a school owned instrument for KVA participation will be able to schedule a time with their home campus instructor for check out and pick up. Home campus instructors will help students with any mechanical or repair needs as they are incurred through the duration of the student's virtual learning.

High School only

Dual Credit

Dual Credit courses will be offered through Katy ISD and Houston Community College (HCC). Adjunct professors from HCC and embedded Katy ISD instructors will conduct classes virtually via Canvas. Questions regarding Dual Credit should be directed to KVAspecialprograms@katyisd.org.

Miller Career & Technology Center (MCTC)

MCTC courses will be offered in-person for students to learn specific skills and have access to specialized equipment. If a student selects instruction through KVA and MCTC, only home campus courses will be virtual. Students will attend MCTC in-person for their CTE course, as well as any academic course it may be paired with during regular instructional time.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about:	Contact:
Student's personal emotional concerns	Student's home campus counselor
Student's health	Student's home campus nurse
Student's coursework	Student's teacher
Technology for a student	Katy ISD Tech Help or click Help on Canvas
Return to school general questions	Phone: 281.396.7400 (6:30am-5pm)
Katy Virtual Academy questions	ReturntoSchool@katyisd.org
Special Programs	KVA@katyisd.org
Special Education	KVAspecialprograms@katyisd.org
	SpecialEdQuestions@katyisd.org