

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT THIRTY-NINE

Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School Districts

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SAU 39 Remote Support Option 2021-2022 School Year

The remote support option for the 21-22 school year will look and feel different than the remote program that was available last school year.

This year, remote students will be accessing their academic courses through VLACS, the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School. VLACS offers a comprehensive program in all content areas for students in grades K through 12. In addition to accessing academic content through VLACS, SAU 39 will provide an anchoring adult to meet regularly with students and facilitate student learning through VLACS.

Frequently Asking Questions

How do I sign up my child for the remote support option?

A form will be available in PowerSchool to notify the school of your decision. In addition, you will need to register your child for their academic courses through VLACS.

How do I register for VLACS courses?

Register for VLACS courses through the learning catalog available at the following link:

<https://vlacs.org/curriculum/learning-catalog/>

- For K-5, select elementary from the drop-down menu and sign up for the appropriate grade level courses including English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. When you register for all four content areas, you will be assigned the same VLACS instructor. In addition to core courses, please also sign up for Health/PE and Art (Technology and Spanish are optional).
- For 6-8, select middle school from the drop down menu and register for the appropriate grade level courses including English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Level I content area courses are for 6th grade, Level II are for 7th grade, and Level III are for 8th grade. In addition to the core content areas, please register for one Health/PE class and one Art or Music class (of your choice). You may select additional elective options if interested.
- For Grades 9-12, please contact your school counselor for guidance in developing your individual VLACS program of studies.

How will the SAU 39 remote support instructor assist students?

The remote support instructor will meet regularly in a morning meeting/advisory activity with SAU 39 remote students within appropriate grade span groups. In addition, the staff member will monitor student progress through VLACS and be a point person to connect VLACS with students and families for support when needed. Depending on enrollment, this instructor may be available for drop-in support sessions.

Would it be appropriate to unenroll from SAU 39 when choosing this option?

We recommend that you continue to stay enrolled with SAU 39 and access VLACS courses as a part-time student. Our remote support option combines VLACS with support from SAU 39 staff. If you choose to unenroll from SAU 39, you would need to submit an intent to homeschool letter and formally withdraw from the District. You would no longer receive support from the SAU 39 remote support instructor if you unenroll and enter a homeschool program.

Is there a cost to register for VLACS courses?

K-12 students who reside in New Hampshire are eligible to take VLACS courses (up to six credits per academic year, for part-time students) free of charge.

How will my child connect with their VLACS instructor?

VLACS provides a self-paced curriculum for each course your child is enrolled in. In addition, VLACS instructors are available online, by appointment and during their posted office hours.

Where can I go for additional information about VLACS?

You can visit the FAQ section of the VLACS website: <https://vlacs.org/support-resources/get-help/>

When will the school year start for my child?

We encourage you to enroll with VLACS as soon as possible as it may take up to two weeks to finalize registration and access courses. However, our remote support instructor will connect with you and your child on the first day of school in SAU 39, which is Tuesday, August 31st. Please note that VLACS coursework is self-paced, and therefore it will not be a problem to begin courses a week or two after our school year starts.

Can my child switch back to in-person instruction at any time during the school year?

Your child can return to in-person instruction at any time during the school year. However, we encourage students to complete the competency they are working on prior to exiting the VLACS program. Each school will work with you individually to transition your child back to in-person instruction.