



The Blue Valley School District will continue to offer a limited number of virtual (online) courses during the 2017-18 school year. Specific information about the courses offered as well as virtual courses in general is presented in this section. Students may enroll in these courses during the school day as one of seven courses (either 1st or 7th hour), or as an after school option (fee involved). The District will continue to research and develop other courses for future implementation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Blue Valley Virtual Education?

A: Blue Valley Virtual Education provides students with the opportunities to design their own personalized learning. Students who participate in web-based instruction are participating in courses with students across the district. Virtual classrooms allow students the freedom to work on the coursework when and where they have time. The online classrooms contain a variety of technologies including: discussion forums, assignments, quizzes, blogs, and virtual textbooks. Each web-based course is designed to align with Blue Valley District curriculum and the Kansas state standards.

The virtual courses offered are equivalent to the traditional high school course. Each semester completed is worth .5 credit. To earn a total 1.0 credit a student will need to complete:

1. Two semesters of the course during regular school year or
2. One summer and one semester during school year or
3. Two summer sessions (if available)

Each semester, or session, has a fee of \$250 unless taken as part of regular school day (1st or 7th hour).

Q: What computer skills do students need?

A: Students should possess a basic understanding of computers as well as the internet. Students should be familiar with basic computer features, internet searches, Microsoft Office software, and email.

Q: What computer system configurations must a student have?

A: Students will need the following minimum system configurations in order to take a virtual course:

Students can run either a Macintosh or a PC (Dell, HP, IBM, etc.) for the virtual courses. Below is a list of minimum software requirements:

PC - (Windows 7 or 8)

Internet access

Firefox (Students should not use Google Chrome with their online coursework. Google Chrome is incompatible with Blackboard and will not function correctly.)

Microsoft Office 2010 or Microsoft Office 2007 or greater

Windows Media Player

Adobe Acrobat Reader

Macintosh - (OS 9 or X)

Internet access

Firefox or Safari (Some students have reported issues with Safari). Google Chrome is incompatible with Blackboard and will not function correctly.

Microsoft Office 2008, Microsoft Office 2011

QuickTime, Flip4Mac, iTunes or Windows Media Player for Macintosh

Adobe Acrobat Reader

Q: What software is required?

A: Students must have Microsoft Office to submit assignments. Students enrolled in Computer Applications are required to have Microsoft Office 2010 or Microsoft Office 2007 if using a PC (Word, Power Point, Access, Excel). Macintosh users are required to have Microsoft Office 2011 or Microsoft 2008. Students will not be able to complete the course content using iWork. Microsoft Office may be downloaded free through the student email portal. Please see the student login page on the district's site for access.

Q: What about internet security?

A: Students will be provided with a username and password. Online content is not accessible without a virtual education account.

Q: Who can take Blue Valley Virtual Education courses?

A: Virtual education courses are available to any high school aged student who is enrolled in the Blue Valley School District.

Q: Can students work on the classes from home?

A: Virtual education courses can be accessed from any location with internet access. Final exams are password protected and must be completed in a proctored setting.

Q: How do you enroll in a virtual class?

A: Enrollment for the spring and fall semesters is completed through the high school counseling office during open enrollment window. Summer enrollment is completed through Blue Valley ParentVue and opens the first week of March.

Q: Is there a fee for virtual courses?

A: Blue Valley virtual education courses taken outside of the school day or in the summer have a \$250 fee. All fees are paid at the high school or through Blue Valley ParentVue.

Q: What is included in the virtual classroom?

A: Courses include video, audio, online quizzes/exams, discussion forums, blogs, assignments, and projects. All virtual education courses require students to submit their work through the virtual classroom. Textbooks and supplemental resources are available in the courses. Students who require an actual copy of the materials can obtain them through the high school libraries if available.

Q: Who teaches Blue Valley Virtual Education courses and how do students communicate with the instructor?

A: All Blue Valley virtual courses are taught by highly qualified instructors as determined by the state of Kansas. Virtual education instructors communicate with the students through the collaboration tools located in the course, via telephone and through electronic mail.

Q: How much time should I expect to spend on a Blue Valley virtual class?

A: Students should plan to spend approximately 4-6 hours per week during the spring and fall semesters and up to 10 hours per week during the summer on each course.

Q: How do I access the Virtual Education website?

A: The Blue Valley Virtual classroom is located at <http://bluevalleyk12.blackboard.com>. This website is accessible both from school and home to give students the freedom to work when and where they have time. All users are required to have a username and password which students obtain at orientation.

Q: Are the courses self-paced?

A: Virtual courses have specific deadlines for assignments. Instructors have the authority to alter the deadlines at any given time. Course deadlines will be posted in the learning management system. Questions about course deadlines or requirements should be directed to the virtual instructor.

Q: What types of technical support is available?

A: At the beginning of each semester, Virtual Education staff members meet with each student for a mandatory course orientation. Course materials and required information is covered during the orientation session. All students access the class during this time to ensure their account information is working correctly. At these orientation sessions students are also given information regarding who to contact if they have technical difficulties. Each virtual course also contains a "Get Help" section that includes handouts and tutorials covering the virtual course tools.

Q: Is there a final exam?

A: Yes, finals are scheduled for the last week of each semester. The final exam may be taken on or before the scheduled time. Course instructors provide specific dates and times for final exams which require physical attendance at a proctored session to complete.

Q: How do I know if I will be successful in an online course?

A: Online learning is hard work. Students who choose to take a virtual course need to be aware of the demands before they make the commitment.

Consider the following characteristics. If these statements describe the way you learn best, you are a good candidate for online learning.

- I am self-disciplined. I enjoy working on my own and don't need coaxing to get a job done.
- I can manage my time. I don't procrastinate. I can balance my school work, social life and work schedule and keep track of deadlines.
- I would rather organize my thoughts in writing rather than speak in class.
- I have study strategies that help me get the most out of reading my textbook and other course resources.
- I enjoy self-paced projects and the freedom to work on my own time.
- I am very comfortable using the internet. I can communicate using email or online discussions. I can navigate web sites and am comfortable reading on a computer screen.

Q: Can you withdraw from a Virtual Education course?

A: A schedule change may be requested during the first 5 days of the semester. The student must follow established building procedures and new courses will be added on a space availability basis.

Virtual education courses with a fee attached to them dropped after the 10th day of the semester will not receive a refund.

Virtual education courses can be dropped using the same guidelines established for other classes. If the course is finished early, the student may drop the course without penalty only before taking the final exam. If a course is dropped the student will receive a W on their transcript. Once the final exam is taken, the course cannot be dropped.

Q: Do Virtual Education courses follow the same guidelines as high school classes?

A: Yes, all virtual education courses are governed by the same policies as any other Blue Valley District course and will be noted on the student transcript and included in the student's GPA. The Blue Valley policies and guidelines regarding plagiarism are strictly enforced. Information contained in the virtual courses should not be distributed, duplicated or shared by students (including assignments, tests, quizzes or documents) unless given permission by the course instructor. Students who distribute materials without permission of the instructor will be subject to the appropriate discipline procedures and policies.



Virtual Courses	0.5 Credit Available	1.0 Credit Available	9	10	11	12	Prerequisite(s)	GRADUATION REQUIREMENT						Weighted Grade	KS Regents Qualified Admissions	NCAA Eligibility	Recommendation Required	Repeatable
								ELA	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	Fine Arts	Technology					
Advanced Placement American Government	x					•					◆			■	■	■		
Advanced Placement Macroeconomics	x				•	•					◆			■	■	■		
Advanced Placement Microeconomics (only offered virtually)	x				•	•					◆			■	■	■		
Advanced Placement U.S. History		x			•	•					◆			■	■	■		
American Government	x					•					◆				■	■		
Biology		x	•	•	•	•									■	■		
Business Essentials	x		•	•	•	•												
Computer Applications	x		•	•	•	•						◆						
Contemporary Communications		x				•	✓	◆							■	■		
Earth Space Science (credit recovery only)		x		•	•	•	✓			◆					■	■		
Emerging Technologies	x		•	•	•	•						◆						
English Language Arts 9 (credit recovery only)		x	•					◆							■	■		
English Language Arts 10 (credit recovery only)		x		•	•	•	✓	◆							■	■		
English Language Arts 11 (credit recovery only)		x			•	•	✓	◆							■	■		
General PE	x		•	•	•	•												
Health & Wellness	x			•	•	•												
Modern World History		x		•	•	•					◆				■	■		
Personal Finance	x		•	•	•	•												
Psychology	x				•	•					◆				■	■		
United States History		x			•	•					◆				■	■		
World Geography	x		•	•	•	•					◆				■	■		

Virtual Education classes will be offered each semester and during the summer contingent on a minimum enrollment.

NOTES:

- Even course numbers are first semester courses.
- Odd numbers are second semester courses.

SS12100/A, SS12110/A

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics (Online)

12

Fee: \$250

0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section. This course earns a weighted grade and requires more in-depth study of the curriculum. Students should carefully consider the extra time needed for this more challenging course. This course is eligible for college credit.

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics utilizes an analytical perspective on government and politics to acquaint students with a variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. Students will evaluate typical patterns of political processes, interpret various forms of data, and analyze relevant theories and concepts. Units of study include, but are not limited to: Constitutional Underpinnings; Political Beliefs and Behaviors; Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media; Institutions of National Government; Public Policy; and Civil Rights and Liberties. This course is designed to prepare students to take the United States Government and Politics AP exam.

SS12580/A, SS12590/A

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics (Online)

11 12

Fee: \$250

0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section. This course earns a weighted grade and requires more in-depth study of the curriculum. Students should carefully consider the extra time needed for this more challenging course. This course is eligible for college credit.

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics provides students with the opportunity to explore the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Particular emphasis is placed on understanding national income and price determination, economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. Units of study include, but are not limited to: Basic Economics Concepts; Measurement of Economic Performance; National Income and Price Determination; Financial Sector; Stabilization Policies; Economic Growth; and Open Economy; International Trade and Finance. This course is designed to prepare students to take the Macroeconomics AP Exam.

SS12420/A, SS12430/A

Advanced Placement Microeconomics (Online)

11 12

Fee: \$250

0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section. This course earns a weighted grade and requires more in-depth study of the curriculum. Students should carefully consider the extra time needed for this more challenging course. This course is eligible for college credit.

The course includes the study of microeconomics in order

to prepare the students for the AP Microeconomics exam. Microeconomics examines the behaviors of individual businesses and individual households in decision making.

SS12080/A, SS12090/A

American Government (Online)

12

Fee: \$250

0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

American Government engages students in a comprehensive study of the development, structure, analysis, and interpretation of America's government system. Emphasis will be placed on the knowledge and skills necessary to become informed decision makers and engaged participants in society. Students will apply their understanding of concepts as they examine and evaluate current events and issues. Units of study include, but are not limited to: Role of Government; Principles and Foundations of the U.S. Government; Institutions of the National Government; Federalism/State and Local Government; Politics, Interest Groups, and Media; Domestic and Foreign Policy; Civil Rights and Liberties; and Role of Citizen.

SS12060/A, SS12070/A

Advanced Placement U.S. History (Online)

11

Fee: \$250

1.0

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section. This course earns a weighted grade and requires more in-depth study of the curriculum. Students should carefully consider the extra time needed for this more challenging course. This course is eligible for college credit.

Advanced Placement U.S. History elaborates on the development of historical thinking skills, including: chronological reasoning, comparing and contextualizing, crafting historical arguments using historical evidence, and interpreting and synthesizing historical narrative, as students examine the history of the United States from multiple perspectives. Units of study are organized into nine historical periods and include learning objectives organized under seven themes of historical inquiry: identity; work, exchange, and technology; peopling, politics and power; American in the world; environment and geography; and ideas, beliefs, and culture. This course is designed to prepare students to take the US History AP exam.

BC02340/A, BC02350/A

Business Essentials (Online)

9 10

Fee: \$250

0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

This course gives a broad background and contemporary view of business topics and careers. The student explores business economic concepts and the interrelationship of finance, accounting, management and marketing.

BC02700/A, BC02271/A

Computer Applications (Online)

9 10 11 12

Fee: \$250

0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

Computer Applications offers students a thorough knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, email, web integration, database and presentations and is recommended for the student with proficient keyboarding skills using the touch method. Students use the above applications to produce personal and business related communications.

EL0324O/A, EL0325O/A

Contemporary Communications (Online)

12

Fee: \$250

1.0

Prerequisite: Three years of High School English Language Arts

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

Contemporary Communications introduces students to the fundamentals of effective communication in today's society. Students develop a deeper understanding of self, specifically an awareness of their own communication and leadership styles. Students learn the etiquette of communicating in an online world using modern technology such as a learning management system (online classroom), social networks, and other Internet and Web 2.0 tools to address different audiences and settings. Technology is used to extend the student's oral and written communication and enhance critical thinking to address real-world contemporary issues. Instruction will emphasize skill development in oral presentation, desktop publishing, research, and close reading of literature, nonfiction, and visual texts.

SC1112O/A, SC1113O/A

Earth Space Science (Online)

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Fee: \$250

1.0

Prerequisite: Biology or Honors Biology

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

In Earth-Space Science students gain an understanding of the processes and interdependence of the earth's systems and its relationship to other objects in space. Topics encompassing geology, astronomy, oceanography and meteorology are explored. This course satisfies the graduation requirement for one unit of Physical Science.

BC0456O/A, BC0457O/A

Emerging Technologies (Online)

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Fee: \$250

0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

This project-based course will focus on the use of emerging technologies as tools for learning. This is a dynamic course with content that is updated frequently to reflect new technologies that students will be expected to use within the full range of classes taken during their high school program of study. Therefore, this class is recommended for 9th and 10th graders. Students will employ college readiness skills and technology literacies and apply these skill sets in assignments for other courses. Students will also be introduced to the tools, processes, and self-management skills required for online courses.

EL0300O/A, EL0301O/A

English Language Arts 9 (Online)

9

Fee: \$250

1.0

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

English Language Arts 9, a skill-based course, focuses on themes of identity and the individual's journey as a hero. The curriculum contains a balance of reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing skills. For comprehension and pleasure, students read novels, plays, short stories, poetry and non-fiction. Students write narratives, poetry and exposition. The class includes the study of literary terms, vocabulary and conventions, as well as the application of research skills.

EL0304O/A, EL0305O/A

English Language Arts 10 (Online)

10

11

12

Fee: \$250

1.0

Prerequisite: English Language Arts 9 or Honors English Language Arts 9

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

English Language Arts 10, a skilled-based course, focuses on the traditional elements of story and the connection of self with others. To enhance comprehension and pleasure in the sophomore year, students read challenging novels, plays, short stories, poetry and non-fiction. Students analyze literature and poetry through expository, persuasive, and narrative writing techniques. The class includes application of literary terms in literature and the refinement of vocabulary, research skills and accuracy in conventions.

EL0308O/A, EL0309O/A

English Language Arts 11 (Online)

11

12

Fee: \$250

1.0

Prerequisite: English Language Arts 10 or Honors English Language Arts 10

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

English Language Arts 11 explores the on-going struggle between the needs of the individual and of an ever-changing society in America. Students interpret and analyze works by various American authors. Through reader response, essays, technical writing and a research project, students begin to further develop personal styles of writing. Vocabulary, literary terms, conventions and research skills continue to be a significant part of the curriculum. Students will also continue to focus on critical thinking within the contexts of reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing.

PE1000O/A, PE1001O/A

General Physical Education (Online)

9 10 11 12 Fee: \$250 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section. Students will be required to complete content from both semester 1 and semester 2 in order to receive the required 1 credit for graduation.

This course is directed toward developing and improving physical fitness knowledge and ability, knowledge of rules and interest in physical activities with individual and small group sports. Students will be required to complete both online assignments as well as logging fitness hours using a heart rate monitor. Each semester class will require approximately 80 hours of fitness activities (approximately four hours each week during fall and spring semesters and ten hours per week during the summer semester). Organized sports or activities will not be counted towards the exercise requirements. Students will be required to personally meet with the instructor four times per semester at pre-arranged times after school. Semester 1 content is offered during the fall term. Semester 2 content is offered during the spring term. During the summer term, semester 1 content is available.

HE0098O/A HE0099O/A

Health & Wellness (Online)

10 11 12 Fee: \$250 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

This course is designed to meet the general informational and educational needs of students in the areas of health issues and wellness. Students will gain practical information to support healthy, life-long decision making. Subject matter includes Nutrition, Prevention and Control of Disease, Injury Prevention and Safety, Personal Health and Wellness, Mental and Emotional Health, Substance Use, Abuse and Misuse, Family Life and Sexuality, Consumer and Community Health. This course is a graduation requirement.

SS1300O/A, SS1301O/A

Modern World History (Online)

10 11 12 Fee: \$250 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

Modern World History engages students in the historical thinking process as they examine eras and world events from the Renaissance/Reformation period to the present day. Through the analysis of primary and secondary sources, employment of literacy strategies, and development of evidence based claims, students will learn how to investigate and address compelling historical questions. Units of study include, but are not limited to: Exploration and Expansion; Absolutism and Constitutionalism; Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment; French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era; Revolution and Reform; the World at War; and 20th and 21st Century conflicts.

BC0204O/A, BC0205O/A

Personal Finance (Online)

9 10 11 12 Fee: \$250 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

This course is designed to cover the important skills in personal finance that every person should have before leaving high school. Course content includes basic business decisions such as getting and keeping a job, employee pay and benefits, checking accounts, banking services, income tax, investing, insurance, credit, consumer protection, consumer decision making and an introduction to economics.

SS12200/A, SS12210/A

Psychology (Online)

11 12

Fee: \$250

0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

Psychology introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students will develop the critical thinking, research, and analytical skills necessary to examine and evaluate psychological principles and phenomena associated with each of the major approaches/perspectives within the field. Emphasis will be placed on psychologists' reliance of scientific inquiry, including research methods and ethical considerations, in their science and practice. Units of study include, but are not limited to: History and Approaches; Research Methods; Biological Bases of Behavior; States of Consciousness; Sensation and Perception; Developmental Psychology; and Abnormal Psychology.

SS15000/A, SS15010/A

United States History (Online)

11 12

Fee: \$250

1.0

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

U.S. History engages students in the historical thinking process as they examine the history of the United States from multiple perspectives. Through the analysis of historical evidence and interpretation, students investigate and address compelling historical questions. Students will develop academic literacy skills, such as sourcing, contextualizing, corroborating, close reading and expressing understanding in written documented claims. Units of study include, but are not limited to: Immigration, Urbanization, Industrialization; Populists and Progressives; Economic Boom, Bust and New Deal of 20s & 30s; the World Wars; the Cold War; Post War Social & Cultural Changes; and America Today.

SS12600/A, SS12610/A

World Geography (Online)

9 10 11 12

Fee: \$250

0.5

Prerequisite: None

Note: Fee is per semester for an after-school section.

World Geography introduces students to the physical, political, economic, social, and cultural geography of our increasingly interdependent and complex world. Students will develop skills such as: inquiry; analysis of primary and secondary sources; comprehension of various forms of data such as maps, charts, and tables; comparing complex systems; and analysis of relationships. Through the lens of a human geography perspective, students will investigate phenomena, events and issues in local, state, national, and global environments. Units of study include, but are not limited to: Geographic Literacy; World Regions and Physical Geography; Population and Migration; Cultural Patterns; Geopolitics; and Economic Development.