

# ROSSLYN ACADEMY

## VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT GUIDE 2020



# PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING

*Rosslyn Academy **inspires and equips each student** to develop their God-given gifts for Christ-like service in the world community.*

Thanks to lessons gleaned from our recent experience with online learning, feedback from teachers, students, and parents, and insights from the best Virtual Learning programs (VLE) around the world, we believe the coming semester will represent a significant step forward in virtual learning at Rosslyn. No Virtual Learning Environment program will be an exact substitute for an in-class program; however, the essential principles of strong teaching and learning will guide us in both environments. This coming semester we will stress social engagement of: student to teacher (instruction and feedback), student to student (group work) and student to themselves (independent learning and self-assessment). Learning will remain authentic and diverse, with additional attention being given to feedback and continuous assessment of both student achievement (grades) and student growth in learning habits. Finally, we will be emphasizing strong modeling and teaching with diverse plans, assignments, assessments, projects, and independent work in order to create the opportunities to reach “each student” where they best learn.



# VLE Components and Features

- Increased live instruction time (as compared to March-May 2020)
- Designed balance between synchronous (real-time instruction) and asynchronous (group and independent student work) learning activities
- Improved and consistent structure with designated class schedules and teacher office hours in East Africa Time
- Accommodations available for students in distant time zones (eg. recordings of live class meetings)
- Continued use of PowerSchool and Google Classroom as digital tools for parents, students and teachers as well as other digital programs and platforms which support student learning.
- Improved strategies to support English Language Learners (ELL) and Learning Support (LS) students
- Additional timely assessment and feedback for students





- Inclusion of additional activity-based and project-based learning in appropriate subjects

- Teaching in Digital Citizenship for students' development as 21st century learners in the VLE context

- Focused attention on social, emotional, physical, and spiritual development

- Ongoing engagement with our counselors and chaplains as we support the social, emotional, and spiritual development of our students.

- Limiting screen-time to what is essential to VLE



# SCHOOL SCHEDULES SEMESTER 1



## Elementary School

The Elementary School schedule will vary slightly by grade level to allow for staggering of class meeting times. School will begin at 8:30 am and wrap up by 2:00 pm. Each class will begin the day, Monday to Thursday, with an all-class “morning meeting” (on Google Meet), and will move through Core and Specials subjects, with a mix of pre-recorded and live instruction. There will be some “live” work time during core classes to ask questions and have discussions. Fridays will allow for other Specials classes and time to catch up on Core subject assignments. In addition to the class meetings, students will have short one-on-one or small group time each week with a teacher to track progress and solve challenges.

*Note: Because of the age of the students, preschool will not follow the schedule below, but will instead be primarily asynchronous learning (flexible time rather than scheduled learning sessions).*

# SAMPLE ES SCHEDULE

*This schedule will vary by grade and day of the week.*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Learning Activity</b>
8:30-8:45	15	Morning Meeting (attendance, instructions)
8:45-9:25	40	Language Arts
9:25-9:45	20	Reading
9:45-10:00	15	Body Break
10:00-10:40	40	Math
10:45-11:25	40	Science (or Bible, depending on the day)
11:30-12:10	40	Lunch break
12:10-12:50	40	Social Studies (or Kiswahili, depending on the day)
12:55-1:35	40	Art (or small group and one-on-one meetings, depending on the day)
1:35-2:00	25	Independent work time, plus some one-on-one or small group meetings
2:00-3:00	60	Teacher "office hour" (available to answer questions)





## Middle and High School

In a VLE setting, the right balance of instructional time and independent work is critical. For this reason, Rosslyn will move to a full Block schedule in VLE. Over the course of 2 weeks, there will be 5 Green Days and 5 Silver Days which makes for an even balance with each class. A typical Block class will begin with direct instruction time, move to students working in groups or independently while still in contact with the teacher and finish with questions and feedback with the teacher. Chapel will occur on a Silver Day once a week and other small groups meetings, class meetings, activities, and group sessions in social emotional learning will also take place regularly on Silver Days.



# MS/HS BLOCK SCHEDULE

Time	Duration	Green Day	Silver Day
8:30-8:40	10	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:40-9:50	70	Period 1	Period 3
9:50-10:00	10	Break	Break
10:00-11:10	70	Period 2	Period 4
11:10-11:20	10	Break	Break
11:20-12:30	70	Period 6	Period 5
12:30-1:10	40	Lunch	Lunch
1:10-2:20	70	Period 7	Chapel 1:10-2:00 Activities/Meetings 1:10-2:20
2:00-3:00	40-60	Office Hours	Office Hours



# VLE STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Attendance at all scheduled class periods
- Presence and visibility on camera during meeting times
- An appropriate learning space at home
- Readiness to learn with appropriate dress
- Following high standards of classroom behavior as set by teachers
- Completing assessments and homework in a timely manner
- Readiness to be assessed in personal responsibility, collaboration and engagement (IVLH - Intellectual Virtues and Learning Habits)
- Technology access in the household
- Growth in digital citizenship
- Positive, ethical, safe and legal technology usage



# TECHNOLOGY

*Each student (K-12) working in Rosslyn Academy's VLE program should have the following technology resources available:*

## Needed:

- A computer or Chromebook (tablets are not recommended)
- Consistent Internet access

## Strongly Recommended:

- UPS (battery backup) and surge protectors for both routers and computers.
- External Mouse (especially for young learners)
- Content Monitoring Software
- Phone / Camera (taking pictures of handwritten work/recording demonstrations)

