


## At Home Virtual Program

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The Virtual Perch, Family Edition: 21 January 2024

3 files • Dr. Christy Mathews, Director of Virtual Learning •  Christine Mathews • 18 hours ago • Sunday, Jan 21 at 3:00 PM • **At Home Virtual Program**



# *Mehlville School District*



## *At Home*

*Connect. Engage. Achieve.*

### **The Virtual Perch**



**The Virtual Perch Newsletter**

**21 January 2024**

**Director's Message**

Happy Sunday At Home Academy families,

Whew! Thank goodness the weather finally warmed up a bit. It got SOOOO cold that it was tough to get out from under the heating blanket we moved to our family room. I hope you've been able to keep warm and enjoy the snow here and there.

As you know, this was our first week of the new semester. Though our elementary students saw very little changes to their school day, our middle school students have shifted their elective and now are enjoying a new fine art. All students received an Art Kit at the start of the school year. Please have your middle schooler search through their things to find their materials so they can be prepared. For students taking Music this semester, watch for emails and ParentSquare posts from Mrs. Ogunmola, the music teacher. She will let you know what materials are needed for this term. Other classrooms may also have supplies for you to pick up for the new semester. If your child's teacher has notified you of a pickup, materials will be on the porch at our Jefferson Barracks location (**69 Randolph Rd, 63125**) by 8:00 am. Please contact Mrs. Beier (314-467-7850) if you need to pick up your materials on a different day.

We find that the second semester often feels like the hardest, and the meat-and-potatoes, part of the school year. Students are learning all new material, there are fewer holiday breaks, there is less opportunity to spend time taking breaks outside, the newness has all worn off, and so on. You can support your child be their best self as a learner by reviewing your expectations with them.

- Take inventory of their learning space. Do they have the materials close at hand? Is the space organized and clean? Do any materials need to be replaced?
- Discuss expectations regarding personal presence in virtual classes:
  - turn your camera on and be visible on screen (students can minimize their self-view if they don't wish to see themselves on camera)
  - participate by raising hand to speak, using the chat, or messaging with the teacher in GoGuardian
  - complete tasks during time allotted, and, if needed, finish in the afternoon or evening as your family's schedule dictates
  - avoid other distractions during the school day (game systems, cell phones, etc.) to better stay on task
  - walk away from the Chromebook when breaks are given: stretch, play with a pet, have a conversation with a parent. Everyone needs breaks!

Discussing your expectations with your child. When possible, include them in setting those up. In the in-person classroom, goals are posted in the room and reviewed regularly. Routines / schedules are posted in the room. The world operates on a schedule, so this is a great opportunity to help your child learn how to set one that works for them and your family.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership,  
Dr. Mathews



## 🌟 Something to Hoot About! 🌟

[Weekly Student Announcements \(click on this link\)](#)

## 🌟 🦉 Owls of Excellence 🦉 🌟

[Weekly Student and Staff Recognition \(click on this link\)](#)

### STUDENT SUPPORT

#### **Kindergarten 2024-2025 Playdates**

Do you have a child who will be joining their Mehlville peers for Kindergarten next year? Attached you will find playground parties for each of our elementary schools. We hope you and your rising kindergartener will join the fun at their future school and meet some new friends!

#### **Attendance**

Attendance is taken throughout the day by classroom teachers and is recorded in Canvas. Student attendance can also be verified using GoGuardian which keeps track of how a student spends their time while online. If you would like a copy of the GoGuardian report, let me know.

If you or your child would like to speak with our counselor regarding needed supports for improving attendance, Ms. McKelvie can be reached at [dmckelvie@msdr9.org](mailto:dmckelvie@msdr9.org) or by calling our main line at 314-467-7850.

#### **Canvas Observer Accounts**

By now, many of you have signed up for Observer accounts. When I first signed up as an observer on my children's accounts, I found the site was challenging to navigate at first. Visit [bit.ly/athomeparentcanvas](https://bit.ly/athomeparentcanvas) for observer account information, helpful tips, and more.

## IMPORTANT LINKS & DATES TO REMEMBER

### Useful Links

Keep these links at your fingertips:

- **Attendance or other office needs: Mrs. Mary Beier, At Home Administrative Assistant, email at [beierm@msdr9.org](mailto:beierm@msdr9.org) or call 314-467-7850.**
- **At Home Academy school website**
  - **School Supply List**
- **Chromebook Tech Support: MSDChromebookHelp@msdr9.org** - contact this email with ANY Chromebook concerns. Include the student's name, username, grade, and school.
- At Home Academy **Student Handbook**
- At Home Academy **2023-2024 calendar** (live updates)
- At Home Academy **Google Calendar subscription**
- **Spirit Wear Ordering** - general items
  - **"Taking learning to new heights" 2023 t-shirt**
- Staff recognition opportunities
  - **School-wide recognition**
  - **District-level recognition**

### Upcoming Events

The important dates below can also be found on our school calendar listed on our **school's website**. If you use Google Calendar, you can also **add our calendar** to yours so you never miss a date.

- **1.22** Something to Hoot About virtual announcement club
- **1.22** Parent preview of S2 during PM office hours (2:50-3:10 pm)
- **1.23** Report cards emailed home
- **1.23** Owl's Eye View student news site club
- **1.24** Asynchronous learning day; full day teacher PD
- **1.29** Something to Hoot About virtual announcement club
- **1.29** K-5 Art club
- **1.30** Owl's Eye View student news site club
- **1.31** 6-8 Art club
- **2.1** Game Club for K-8



### Counselor's Corner

### Let's talk about what's next

This past week, I visited our 5th through 8th grade classes to talk a little about what choices we have for next school year. One suggestion I gave students is to discuss an in-person visit to their local school so they can get a feel for the space. I invited any student to speak with me or their teachers if they are having trouble processing this change. Please reach out to me if you want to discuss your child's specific situation.

As a reminder, on March 6th at 6 pm using join code "ahc" in Google Meet, ***I will host a parent meeting to discuss any virtual options. I hope you will be able to join us.***

\*Ms. McKelvie is a part-time counselor who is with At Home Academy on Mondays, Wednesdays, and alternating Fridays. Visit the resources below to request support, or reach out to Ms. McKelvie by phone at 314-467-7849 or by email at dmckelvie@msdr9.org.



### Counseling Resource Links

[Virtual Counseling Office](#)

[At Home Academy Counselor Request Form](#)

**21 January 2024**

📄 AMI Schedules for 2023-2024.pdf

📄 Kindergarten Playdates-Kickoff 2024.pdf



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### Comments & Replies

Comment...

