

# O.P.I.S

## Virtual Independent Study 2021-2022



# New 2021-2022 Virtual Independent Study vs. Traditional OPIS Program

What's the  
difference?

## New 2021-2022 OPIS Virtual Option

- Available as an option only in 2021-2022 to students with health concerns
- Work is completed independently at home
  - Grades DK- 3: Approximately one-hour daily virtual instruction with teacher
  - Grades 4-8: Approximately one hour per week of instruction with teacher in addition to daily 'interaction' between students and/or student and staff member (teacher or instructional aide)
  - Grades 9-12: Once a week instruction with teacher

*THIS VIRTUAL PROGRAM IS VERY SIMILAR TO THE TRADITIONAL OPIS PROGRAM WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:*

- *Increased live interaction and synchronous instruction for students in grades DK-8*
- *Those in the virtual program may not attend class or activities in person at any time, including classes at OPHS.*

## Traditional OPIS Program

- This program has been in existence for many years and remains an option this year to interested students/families
- Work is completed independently at home
  - One hour per week with the teacher (*may be done virtually or in person*) for all grade levels

# 2021-2022 Virtual OPIS Option in Detail

## What is the Oak Park Independent School (OPIS) Virtual Program?

The OPIS Virtual Program includes a mix of synchronous and asynchronous instruction and live interaction. **Assembly Bill 130 requires an independent study option to be available for the 2021-2022 school year to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian.**

## The OPIS Virtual Program will follow the State requirements for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Discovery Kindergarten to Grade 3 – daily synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.
- Grades 4 through 8 – daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.
- Grades 9 through 12 – at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.

## Terminology:

- *“Live interactions” means interaction between the pupil and local educational agency classified or certificated staff, and may include peers, provided for the purpose of maintaining school connectedness, including, but not limited to, wellness checks, progress monitoring, provision of services, and instruction. This interaction may take place in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communication.*
- *“Synchronous instruction” means classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction delivered in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communications, and involving live two-way communication between the teacher and pupil. Synchronous instruction will be provided by the teacher.*
- *“Asynchronous instruction” means that the student works independently.*


# Important Notes for Potential Students & Parents

## 2021-2022 OPIS Virtual Program

Please note that independent study is a voluntary option and is NOT the same as Distance Learning that was provided to students enrolled in OPUSD traditional schools during the pandemic.

- In the OPIS Virtual Program, students will complete their work independently at home based on an online, standards-aligned curriculum.
- Student attendance will be monitored through virtual check-ins and completion of independent work.
- This program may not be appropriate for all students. Prior to enrollment, parents and students have a right to request a conference with the school administrator.
- Students will need to disenroll from their current school to enroll in this program. Students can return back to in-person learning at a traditional school within 5 days by re-enrolling at the desired school. We cannot guarantee placement back at their school for elementary students if they return to a traditional school. A student could be placed at any one of our three elementary schools. Likewise, for secondary students, we will make every effort to place students into desired elective classes but cannot guarantee this.
- If a student has an IEP or 504 Plan, enrollment in Independent Study is a placement decision and is only allowed if the Student's IEP or 504 Plan specifically provides for that participation; an IEP or 504 meeting is required prior to any change of placement to OPIS.
- If your student is currently enrolled in OPIS and you would like more information about the OPIS Virtual Program, please contact Principal Kent Cromwell at [kcromwell@opusd.org](mailto:kcromwell@opusd.org).

# High School Students: Important Notes to Consider



## New 2021-2022 OPIS Virtual Option

*Virtual Meetings and  
Interactions ONLY*

*No in-person activities or  
classes permitted*

*No participation permitted in  
activities or classes at other  
OPUSD campuses*



## Both OPIS Programs



A-G and Courses Required for  
Graduation are available

Standards-Aligned Curriculum

One weekly meeting with  
teacher



## Traditional OPIS Program

*Meetings with teachers can be in  
person or virtual*

*Options for in-person activities  
and classes*



# 2021-2022 Virtual Independent Study FAQs

1. Is this program the same as the Distance Learning model that was in place in OPUSD in 2020-2021?
  - No. Distance Learning is no longer available. This virtual independent study program requires a great deal of independent work.
2. Do students need WIFI and a device to participate?
  - Yes. Students who need a device and/or internet hotspot will notify the school at the time of enrollment.
3. Will all class meetings and class instruction take place virtually?
  - Yes. This program is designed for students who have health concerns and, therefore, is designed to be virtual. Students will meet via Google Meets.
  - Those interested in meeting in-person with the teacher and/or participating in additional on-campus activities may explore the traditional OPIS program.
4. Will the exact meeting times and required instructional minutes be communicated?
  - Yes, students (under the supervision of parents or guardians) are expected to participate in a required number of instructional minutes each day depending on the grade level. Much of this time is spent independently completing assigned classwork. Students will sign a written agreement outlining the expectations, requirements, frequency of meetings, etc.

# FAQs, continued

5. Is the academic rigor equivalent to that of the traditional, in-person instructional program?
  - Yes, Independent study is to be substantially equivalent in quality and quantity to classroom instruction. It is important that parents, guardians, and students understand the commitment they are making when they sign the Independent Study Written Agreement.
  - Students are expected to spend at least as much time on independent study assignments as they would for courses in the comprehensive school.
  - All students will be assigned a full day's worth of work that is comparable to the core curriculum assignments in the school that they would attend.
  
6. Will meals be available to independent study students?
  - Yes, a meal pick-up option will be provided to all students enrolled in this program; meals must be pre-ordered.

# Next Steps

Are you interested in enrolling in the OPIS program and/or learning more about the OPIS program?

1. Please complete the [Interest Form](#) as soon as possible
2. Wait to be contacted by the principal of OPIS, Mr. Kent Cromwell
  - Please note that submitting this form does not automatically enroll your child in this program
  - After speaking with the OPIS principal, next steps will be discussed

*For more information, contact Mr. Cromwell at [kcromwell@opusd.org](mailto:kcromwell@opusd.org).*