Virtual Instruction – Frequently Asked Questions:

1) Q: As a parent, am I required to register my child(ren) for their classes on the Accelerate Education platform?
A: NO. A Southwest Local School District staff member (guidance counselor or principal) will do this for you. Elementary students in K-5 have a fixed schedule, and secondary students in 6-12 will be assigned the courses for which they selected last Spring for this school year. If there is a course that was selected by your child but not offered virtually, his or her guidance counselor will reach out to schedule an alternative course.

2) Q: When will I get my computer?
A: Laptops will be distributed to virtual students on 8/27 and 8/28. Your building principals will provide you with more information regarding pick-up times and procedures.

3) Q: When will I get my log-in information for the virtual platform?
A: Log-in information will be provided to all students registered for the Accelerate Education platform with laptop distribution.

4) Q: Is there a tutorial available where I can see how the program works?
A: YES. There is an overview of the Accelerate Education platform and the role of the Learning Coach: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyWxHFtKLZ0&feature=youtu.be
 (also available on the district's website here):
https://www.southwestschools.org/departments/curriculum-3/virtual-instruction-87/
Additionally, Mrs. Hayes will be posting a webinar on the district website for parent/student orientation to the Accelerate Education platform during the week of 8/31, and hosting a live, virtual Q&A session via Google Meet for anyone who has additional questions or needs clarification.

5) Q: How many hours per day is my child required to be logged in?
A: There are required hours for instructional time, set by the Ohio Department of Education, assigned to grade bands for Ohio students. The hours requirements are:
Kindergarten: 14 hours per week (approximately 2.7 hours per day)
Grades 1-5: 27.5 hours per week (approximately 5.5 hours per day)
Grades 6-12: 30 hours per week (approximately 6 hours per day)
Students' time spent on the platform will be recorded digitally in their dashboard, and each student will submit an additional time log weekly to the Southwest Local teacher assigned to the student for support. This time log will include activities completed outside of the digital Accelerate curriculum (independent reading, workbook activities for K-5, research or projects assigned by the teacher, etc.). All time logs must be submitted to the teacher by 11:59pm Sunday evening, each week.

6) Q: Do I have to have internet for my child to participate in virtual instruction?
   A: YES. Please let your child's principal know if you do not have internet access, as this is a completely digital curriculum that requires internet access.

7) Q: My child is on an IEP. Can this program be modified to fit his/her needs?
   A: YES. All of the courses in the Accelerate Education platform can be modified by the Southwest Local Teacher(s) assigned to each child to meet their educational needs. Teachers can also supplement the curriculum with both intervention and enrichment activities within the software, or directly to the student during virtual meetings.   The child's intervention specialist will work directly with the child and the grade level teacher assigned to ensure that progress is being made on the child's IEP goals. Special education services will be provided by the intervention specialist virtually.

8) Q: My child has a reading deficit, does the program read aloud to my child?
   A: YES. There are built-in tools for accommodations in every course.

9) Q: My child struggles with physical limitations to type/write. Can I have him/her verbally tell me the answer and I type their responses?
   A: YES. It is allowable for the learning coach to scribe for the child.

*If your child is on an IEP & you need more clarification regarding modifications/accommodations, please contact your child's Intervention Specialist.

10) Q: If my child decides to do the virtual program for the first semester, then return in January to the normal classroom how is the homeroom teacher determined?
    A: In late November/early December, another letter of intent form will be posted for parents to indicate their preference for second semester instruction (face to face or virtual). After the close of that registration period, each school will once again re-do their master schedule and students who were on the virtual instruction platform first semester but return to school second semester will be added evenly to teachers' classrooms to balance class sizes in each grade level.

11) Q: Is the content taught in the virtual program the same as what is being taught in the classroom face-to-face first semester?
    A: The material and resources in the virtual curriculum are different than those used in our in-person classrooms, however the same grade level standards and skills are addressed in both instructional delivery methods. Our district teachers will meet to go through the virtual curriculum scope and sequence and ensure that it matches our district curriculum maps for each grade level and subject. While pacing may not be the same, the students in both the in-person and virtual instruction model will have covered the same grade level standards and skills during each semester. As mentioned above, SLSD teachers assigned to the virtual students will be able to modify the curriculum as needed, adding their own resources for intervention and enrichment or to re-teach concepts presented in the virtual curriculum, if students are struggling.