



Virtual Lesson Start-Up

Virtual sessions can work really well, especially when students have a few basic things nearby and are ready to jump in when we start.

None of this is required, and please do **not** feel like you need to go out and buy everything on this list. These are just things that can make virtual sessions easier and more productive.

Before Sessions

A few things that really help:

- Use the restroom before we start.
- Have a drink and/or snack nearby if needed. (Think spill & sticky proof though! Drinks with lids, and mess free snacks, work well near electronics.)
- Make sure the Chromebook/laptop is charged or plugged in.
- Have schoolwork, worksheets, books, etc. nearby.
- Make sure Zoom can access the camera and microphone.
- Please make sure **screen sharing is enabled** on the device.
- Close extra tabs, games, messages, etc. when possible.
- Have school login information available if we may need to get into Google Classroom, online textbooks, school email, etc.

If there is a test, project, missing assignment, or something that has been especially hard that week, just let me know at the beginning of the session so we can make a plan together. You can also email me specific documents or assignments prior to the session.

Helpful Supplies

All optional!

Basic Supplies

- Pencils
- Erasers
- Colored highlighters
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Notebook or loose-leaf paper
- Sticky notes
- Index cards

Whiteboard

A small whiteboard can be really helpful during virtual sessions.

Helpful things to have with it:

- Dry-erase markers
- Eraser

We can use it for math, spelling, brainstorming, quick answers, drawing things out, and lots of other things without using up a bunch of paper.

Math Tools

Depending on what they are working on in school, it can be helpful to have:

- Calculator
- Ruler
- Graph paper
- Scratch paper
- Multiplication chart if they use one
- Number line if helpful
- Protractor or other math tools if they are using them in class

Any hands-on math materials you already have at home are great too — dice, coins, counters, fraction pieces, etc.

Document Camera

A document camera is **completely optional**, but it can be really helpful.

This is basically a small camera that points down at the student's paper so I can see exactly what they are writing and working through.

This is the one I currently use:

Thustand Document Camera

<https://www.amazon.com/Thustand-Document-Teachers-Visualizer-Chromebook/dp/B0CNPLH3G8>

You do not need this exact one. Any document camera is great as long as it:

- Works with the student's Chromebook/laptop and Zoom
- Can point straight down at a worksheet or notebook
- Has an adjustable stand
- Gives a clear enough picture to read the student's work
- Is easy for the student to use

A built-in light and autofocus are nice extras, but not necessary.

One of the things I often do during in-person sessions is work right alongside students on their actual school papers. A document camera can make that much easier virtually because I can see the process instead of just the finished answer.

Comfort & Focus

Kids do not have to sit perfectly still during sessions. If something helps them focus, regulate, or feel comfortable, please let them use it.

Some ideas:

- Hand fidgets
- Chair fidgets
- Stress ball
- Putty
- Wiggle cushion
- Footrest
- Water bottle
- Small snack
- Comfortable chair
- Standing while working

Movement is great. Fidgets are awesome. Taking a quick break is often so necessary. The goal is for them to be comfortable enough to actually learn.

Zoom & Online Tools

We use **Zoom** for virtual sessions.

During sessions we may use things like:

- Screen sharing
- Zoom whiteboard
- Annotation tools
- Chat
- Shared documents
- Online games and activities

We also often use sites such as:

- Kahoot
- Blooket
- Quizlet
- Google Docs
- Google Slides
- Online whiteboards
- School websites and portals
- Other learning games and activities depending on what we are working on

I try to keep virtual sessions similar to in person, interactive and fun!

Schoolwork & Assignments

If we are going to be working on schoolwork, it helps if students have the assignment ready when we start.

They can:

- Screen share it
- Open it through their school portal
- Send/upload a picture
- Hold it up to the camera
- Use a document camera
- Email it ahead of time if possible

Whenever possible, I like to see the actual assignment directions too. Sometimes understanding exactly what the teacher is asking is half the battle!

Parent Help During Virtual Sessions

Parents do **not** need to sit beside their child for the whole session. For most students, I actually prefer that they work with me independently as much as they are able.

It is helpful if an adult is somewhere nearby, though, especially in case we have:

- Internet problems
- Login issues
- Camera/microphone problems
- Something that needs to be printed
- A Chromebook that suddenly decides it doesn't want to cooperate!

Most importantly, I want students to feel comfortable asking questions, making mistakes, telling me when something doesn't make sense, and letting me know when we need to slow down or try something a different way. If something isn't working or could work better for your child and family please reach out to me anytime to make adjustments or suggestions.

Virtual sessions do not need to feel perfect or look like school. They just need to work for your child.

So excited to see you online!!