

FAQs. MCOLA

Mini Cassia Online Learning Academy

1. What is MCOLA

The Mini Cassia Online Learning Academy is a fully online school within the Cassia school system. Open for students K-12, learning takes place virtually, facilitated by a Cassia teacher assigned to the class or subject. Free of charge, students receive their learning modules online, with weekly assignments. Curriculum is Idaho standards based and includes elements of project based learning. Using “Courseware”, lessons are designed to support proficiency in a media rich, interactive experience.

Cassia School District has created a new online school for your students that is rigorous, interesting, and engaging. Your child will continue to receive the high quality educational experience online that they've come to expect from the traditional setting.

MCOLA is its own separate school. We recognize that each and every family in our community, just like our students, has different needs. MCOLA offers a robust learning experience that has much of the same feel as a traditional classroom experience, while providing the flexibility to meet the needs of each family.

2. How does it work?

Students pace themselves based on weekly assignments through the online portal.

Students will use a variety of powerful and intuitive digital tools to show evidence of their learning in the way that works best for them. Family members can connect to monitor student progress and celebrate learning.

Edmentum, our curriculum provider, offers students a personalized learning opportunity where they can log in and easily go right to each class to see an interactive display of their progress and performance. Parents can expect to spend about 2-4 hours a day engaged in their student's learning.

Students can access lesson specific content, resources, and learning tools. They can see if they are ahead, behind, or on target with an up to date display of the work they have completed and which assignments they have finished most recently. And if they need anything, or want to reach out, they can always connect directly with their online teacher.

The great thing about all of these platforms is that your child will have daily contact with their teacher and other students. Classes are also designed to meet your learner at the level they are at, ensuring an enriching learning experience.

3. Can my student still take classes at their home school?

Yes, if your student is in grades 7-12 they can take elective classes from their home school, if they want to. Elective classes could include health, PE, Art, Music, Language etc. Elective classes are available with MCOLA too and you can take a look <https://www.edmentum.com/course-catalog?state=96> to see the

course catalog and offerings.

Elective classes are the only classes allowed when enrolled in MCOLA. **ALL core classes** must be taken through the online platform.

4. What about dual credit or AP classes?

AP classes are available through MCOLA. Dual credit classes must be taken from IDLA or a partnering university/college. No dual credit classes are offered through and by MCOLA.

5. How much time can the student/parent expect to spend on assignments?

A student can expect 3-4 hours of total study/work. That isn't only screen time, it's total time for learning, including the work, projects, etc.

If you have more than one student enrolled, you should not expect the learning time to take longer because you have multiple students in various grades, unless your children log on separately and work independently from the others. So, if all of your "students" were working on their assignments simultaneously, then the total is around 3- 4 hours. If you helped them individually, the time would depend upon how you staggered them.

This is not traditional school, so you set the time, days, etc. Once a student completes the work for the week, they are done. We are grading on a combination of completed assignments and daily logins. A written policy for attendance is forthcoming.

7. What if the student/parent changes their mind once we start?

Once enrolled, a student will remain in MCOLA until the semester ends. There is no movement between online and in-person. We hope you understand why we have to do it that way.

If you choose to transition to in-person, you should not expect that your student will be behind academically. MCOLA is supported by a rigorous standards based curriculum, it is not subpar in education quality.

8. What about IEP's or special accommodations?

Students who require accommodations of any kind can be supported in a couple of ways. An appointment can be scheduled with a coordinator/case manager to assist. Please contact Ludean Henderson for more information: henludea@cassiaschools.org.

For those with limited English capability, all online materials and information can be translated into a variety of languages.

The website contains specific information about accommodations and modifications for students, as provided through the program.

9. What if we don't have a computer for my student?

We are making chromebooks available for students. We cannot provide internet, however.

10. What's the difference between this program and other online/virtual schools?

Students are still Cassia students and they are supported by Cassia teachers.

11. How do Cassia teachers factor into this?

Cassia teachers will be assigned to support, interact and facilitate learning for online students. They are direct sources of information and will be monitoring and grading assignments.

12. Can we still get lunch, participate in other student activities?

MCOLA students can get breakfast and lunch. Students can still participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities.

13. Is there more information available?

Yes, if you haven't already, please visit our website. There are many links to videos and informational items on the website.

14. How and when do we enroll?

Registration is open through August 15th. You register online as a "NEW STUDENT". The registration link is: https://cas.cassiaschools.org/cas_CassiaCnty151ID/login
Should our demand exceed our capacity, enrollment will be by a first come, first served basis.

15. Online or In-person?

We can't answer that question for you! We believe your child will be served well in person and online, whatever you choose. We are excited to offer options during this unusual time. And if something isn't working, you can make changes at the semester.

16. And if I still have questions?

Send an email to our district contacts and program managers:
Jennifer Woodbury for K-5 woojenni@cassiaschools.org
Summer Jackson for 6-12 jacsumme@cassiaschools.org