San Leandro Virtual Academy Handbook

We are glad that you are considering enrollment in San Leandro Virtual Academy. We are the "silva" SHARKS and our school is a special place for our students. SLVA is its own school in SLUSD and is not part of any other school's activities or programs.

Mission Statement

San Leandro Virtual Academy's mission is to offer an alternative to the traditional classroom setting by providing an online format that prepares all students for multiple paths to success. Each student's socio-emotional needs are prioritized through a caring, equitable, and engaging environment that fosters independence. SLVA places students first by delivering a culturally relevant and academically rich education in an inclusive environment that inspires critical thinking and creativity, so students are prepared to be independent learners who understand, contribute to, and succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Enrollment

To enroll in SLVA, families/guardians complete the online application.

Families will be contacted by SLVA staff to discuss the program and determine if SLVA matches needs and expectations of the student, family, teachers and administration. To best support student learning, we encourage families to join or leave SLVA within 2 weeks of a grading period. SLVA is not a credit recovery high school program.

Learning Agreement

In order to enroll in SLVA all families and students agree by reading and signing the San Leandro Virtual Academy Learning Agreement. SLVA follows the traditional independent study instructional model; more information can be found at the California Department of Education here. Email Yvonne Meier (ymeier@slusd.us) for more information.

By signing the Learning Agreement, you are agreeing to the expectations for participation in SLVA as outlined in this handbook and on the Learning Agreement. All students and families must agree to these expectations and support their students in meeting these expectations. If a student is not following the agreements listed in this handbook and on the Learning Agreement, they may be disenrolled from SLVA.

No student will be enrolled in SLVA without a completed and signed Learning Agreement on file. The Learning Agreement is only valid for one school year.

Attendance

Students are expected to have daily interaction with their teacher (synchronous learning) and independently complete assignments (asynchronous learning) as a SLVA student. The requirements as a SLVA student is at least 4 hours for elementary, and 5-7 hours for secondary for teaching and learning per school day. REMEMBER in SLVA there **are no excused absences.** Students are required to complete their assignments weekly and any make-up work if unable to complete that day. Any student who is not at 90% or above for attendance may be removed from SLVA. Students who are absent and/or not completing work will be required to attend an Student Attendance Review Team (SART) regarding support and options to stay enrolled in SLVA.

Elementary school attendance is based on…

- Daily attendance for class sessions
- Completion of assignments assigned by the teacher

Middle and High school attendance is based on …

- Morning meeting attendance
- Completion of assignments in courses assigned by the teacher
- Attendance at 1:1 meetings between student and teacher

Course Offerings

All courses offered by SLVA follow California Content Standards and SLUSD Board Policies. REMEMBER SLVA is an alternative school that follows requirements by the California Department of Education and some courses will not be offered that might be found at the in person residential, but many of the courses are comparable and will provide you a high quality education. In addition, our grades 6-12 program is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and is A-G approved for UC/CSU admission.

Elementary School Courses

Elementary students follow the same class structure and standards as all SLUSD elementary schools.

Middle School Courses

In consultation with SLVA counselors, 6th - 8th grade students are enrolled in grade level Math, English, Science, and Social Studies. Middle school students also enroll in Physical Education and select an elective.

- Elective options include: Strategies for Academic Success, Online Learning and Digital Citizenship, Keyboarding and Applications, and Spanish 1 (8th grade only).
- Physical Education (PE) has two components: online lessons and documented physical activity. For more information, please read the PE Policy.

High School Courses

In consultation with SLVA counselors, 9th - 12th grade students are enrolled in an approved SLUSD course of study. SLVA is not a credit recovery program. High school students enroll in 6 courses but can request a zero period for a total of 7 classes that equates to 35 credits a semester.

- Physical Education (PE) has two components: online lessons and documented physical activity. For more information, please read the PE Policy
- SLVA does not offer drama, yearbook, choir, band, orchestra, or Advanced Placement (AP) classes

Some of the course offerings at SLVA will be different from San Leandro High School or Lincoln High School, so please inquire with the counselors and/or review the SLVA Course List.

Assessments and Grading

We use assessments to guide our instruction and provide support for our students. **Students will be required to attend in person assessments periodically through the school year.** Students will be assessed formally at least three times a year using online district assessments such as Renaissance Learning, STAR Math and Reading Tests. There will be progress monitoring throughout the year using district and curriculum-based assessments.

Students in 3rd through high school take the state tests CAASPP. Click here for more information on CAASPP

English Learners will take the ELPAC: Click here for more information

Elementary students receive report cards three times a year. Students receive progress reports mid-way through each trimester period if they are not making acceptable progress in any particular subject. Elementary grades are reported using the following standards-based scale:

1 = Standard Not Met 2 = Standard Nearly Met 3 = Standard Met 4 = Standard Exceeded

Middle and High School students will receive progress reports halfway through the quarter and will receive grades every quarter. Those grades are available on Aeries for students and families.

Concurrent Course Offerings

SLVA students may not take courses at the other SLUSD campuses. In consultation with SLVA counselors, high school students may explore concurrent offerings at Chabot College and/or other local colleges. For more information about enrollment qualifications, go to Concurrent Enrollment for Chabot College and schedule an appointment with your SLVA counselor.

SLVA Program Components

Asynchronous Learning (independent)

Students in the SLVA are primarily independent learners, who are supported by a designated teacher, counseling staff, school staff, and family:

Elementary Kindergarten - an adult must be with the student during the school day
Elementary 1st - 3rd - an adult must be available to the student during the school day
Elementary 4th - 5th - an adult should be available to the student during the school day
Secondary 6th - 12th - an adult should check with student daily to review progress

Students complete the majority of their assigned tasks independently (asynchronously) . Depending on the grade level, independent learning assignments may include:

- Reading short stories and full-length books
- Writing paragraphs and essays
- Virtual Science labs and lab reports
- Solving math problems
- Audio recordings of students reading or speaking
- Exercising and completing fitness logs
- Historical research
- Projects and presentations
- Drawing and coloring

The designated teacher will assign the tasks along with due dates. Depending on the grade level, assignments will be delivered, collected, and assessed via a Learning Management Systems (LMS), such as Edgenuity, Schoology or Acellus. LMSs are accessed through Clever.

Synchronous Learning (with teacher and other students)

Being present and actively engaged in lessons is an essential step towards academic success and socio-emotional growth. Students are expected to have daily interaction with their teacher (synchronous learning). This can take on various forms, such as

- Daily morning meetings
- 1:1 conferences between the student and teacher
- Academic Support, Tutoring, Clubs and/or Resource Specialist Support

Special Education

SDC students will attend daily morning meetings and daily/weekly small group synchronous sessions. Asynchronous work will be completed daily on learning platforms with extended time and other accommodations to complete work as written in IEP documents.

Resource students will attend daily morning meetings with their teacher of record. Students will meet weekly with **BOTH** the general education teacher and special education teacher if they are not the same which means another 1:1 meeting. Asynchronous work will be completed daily on learning platforms with extended time and other accommodations to complete work as written in IEP documents.

Informal assessments and progress monitoring of goals will be scheduled each trimester/semester along with individual student's IEP annual dates. Testing schedule may be different from the regular weekly session and may require families to come for in-person appointments.

Formal assessments such as the district, state and triennial testing may involve in-person appointments or may be completed online if available. Test booklets must be returned.

Technology Expectations

Building relationships with peers and teachers is an important part of the SLVA program. As our instruction is predominantly online, community building is done primarily through seeing and speaking to each other via Zoom and through scheduled in person meetings and sessions.

Students will be provided with a district approved Chromebook. If students need internet access or headphones, please contact Yvonne Meier at 510-618-4600 ext 3097 or ymeier@slusd.us.

During class sessions and 1:1 meetings over Zoom, webcams should be turned on with the student's face visible. Microphones should be muted until it is the student's turn to speak. Screen sharing is a common practice, so students should be prepared to share academic work and websites that are educationally appropriate. In addition, students will participate in breakout rooms and do class presentations over Zoom.

The District owns the equipment, installed software and other accessories. Families are liable for the value of this equipment while in your possession (checked out to you). In the event the equipment is lost, damaged, destroyed, stolen or otherwise rendered unusable while in my possession I am responsible for:

- Notifying the School Principal within 24 hours.
- Reporting any theft or vandalism to the police department and obtaining a police report.
- Submitting a claim with my homeowners/renters or auto insurance carrier.
- In the event the problem is not covered by the manufacturer's warranty, be responsible for the cost of the device.

Student Behavior

All students are expected to behave in the same manner as in other schools. Students will not use inappropriate language verbally and in writing or show/display inappropriate images. If a student is engaged in any actions that violate our policies, disciplinary action will be deployed and they may be removed from SLVA.

Internet Safety & Cyberbullying Prevention

We take Cyberbullying very seriously. SLVA believes that all students have a right to a safe, healthy, and nurturing learning environment. Our online community recognizes schools must be

physically and emotionally safe for all students in order to promote and support academic achievement, citizenship, student attendance, and engagement. One way that we are addressing cyberbullying is by adopting internet safety curriculum from Lersun Learning called "AUP Online internet safety," which is a self-paced and grade level appropriate curriculum that covers the following:

- Internet safety
- Responsible use of social media
- Bullying, cyberbullying and what to do
- Credibility of internet resources
- Ethical/social responsibility
- Responsible Use Agreement sign off

All students in San Leandro Unified School District are required to complete this Board Approved Program. The "Student/ Parent/Legal Guardian Handbook" outlines SLUSD's policy on behavior which includes cyberbullying online.

Please speak and model with your student the importance of showing respect and courtesy online with all students and staff members. If there is a problem, please immediately report it to the teacher.

Monitoring Student Accounts

All student Google accounts are monitored by the district and are accessible by the principal and staff. Students should not use their school accounts for anything other than what is related to school work.

Other School Campuses

As SLVA is its own school, students are not permitted to be at other schools during the school day and should not be at another school except for public events. Students who are at other schools during the school day will be subject to disciplinary action.

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is representing the work of someone else as your own and submitting it for any purpose. When students use the words or ideas of other writers as if they were your own or hand in work that someone else has written, they betray the trust of students who do their own work. Plagiarism includes the following:

- Incorporating the ideas, works, sentences, paragraphs, or parts of another person's writings, without giving appropriate credit, and

representing the product as your own work - including the use of AI or Chatbots
- Representing another's artistic/scholarly work as your own.
- Work that is not originally written for this specific class without permission from the teacher

Cheating

Cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating includes the following:

- Copying from someone else's test or work.
- Submitting work that is not your own (ie. chatbots, AI or other online resources)
- Altering or interfering with grading.
- Using material (ie website, youtube, etc.) during an exam that is not allowed.
- Consulting with someone other than the teacher during an exam.
- Committing other acts that defraud or misrepresent.

Consequences for plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will be determined by the teacher and/or Administrator.

Sports

SLVA is not a member of California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) and does not have any competitive team sports. SLVA students are not allowed to participate in the athletic programs at San Leandro High School or the middle schools.

School Events

11th and 12th grade students may attend Prom hosted by San Leandro High School. Permission slips must be signed by parents/guardians and SLVA Administration prior to purchasing tickets.

San Leandro High School dances are not “open dances.” SLVA students wanting to attend Homecoming and other dances attended by San Leandro High School 9th-12th graders would require a guest pass sponsored by an enrolled San Leandro High School student and signed by administrators from SLVA and SLHS.

Bancroft MS and John Muir MS dances are not “open dances,” so SLVA students are unable to attend.

High School Graduation, Middle School and 5th grade Promotion

SLVA will have its own graduation and promotion ceremonies in June. More information about the SLUSD's promotion and retention policy.

Sign up for Parent Square

All news and information will be sent out through Parent Square. All postings can be found on this app and are distributed in real-time to ensure families have the most updated information. To access Parent Square Click Here. Parents who regularly read the postings will know what activities are occurring and are best able to support their child's educational program. This is also the best way to message your child's teacher.

Family Involvement

School Site Council (SSC)

The school site council (SSC) is an elected group of parents/guardians, teachers and additional school employees. The primary goal of the SSC is to work with the principal to develop, recommend for approval, monitor, evaluate, and update the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA).

English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)

The purpose of the ELAC is to advise the principal and school staff on programs and services for English learners. The committee advises (reviews and comments) on the school's plan and program.

We have read and understand all the expectations for SLVA. If our student/s doesn't maintain attendance, work completion, participation in meetings/1:1 or violates policies around tech use, our student may be removed from SLVA and placed at their home school.

Parent:_____

Student: _____

Staff: _____