



# **Virtual Learning Program**

## **Student & Parent/Guardian Information**

*Buffalo Public Schools*

*Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction*

# Virtual Learning Program

## **Mission:**

To provide a standards-based, rigorous virtual learning program that supports both academic success as well as college and career readiness while providing an environment that is flexible, equitable, and challenging for all students in the Buffalo Public Schools.

## **Vision:**

Students in the Buffalo Public Schools will have viable pathways to graduation and access to courses that allow them to reach their academic and post-secondary goals.

## **Program Overview:**

The BPS Virtual Learning Program is designed for enrichment and advancement as well as to help students meet graduation requirements. Students are enrolled in GradPoint, a web-based learning environment, facilitated by a NYS certified Buffalo Public School teachers. Use of GradPoint expands course offerings and opportunities to students across the district.

In addition, this program builds pathways to graduation for students who are short credits, who need electives or advanced courses, or who have missed requirements because of an illness, schedule conflict, or extenuating personal or academic circumstances. The program follows the NYS Part 100 Regulations and courses are aligned with New York State and Common Core Standards. Students have scheduled time, in a computer lab, to access their courses and have the opportunity to work at home or an alternate off-site location providing technology is available.

## **Program Eligibility:**

Students are assigned to a virtual course after approval to enter the program by school-based committee members.

## **Registration Requirements:**

Students must fill out a registration form prior to enrollment with their guidance counselor. They also must complete the student contract and the parent/guardian contract. The contracts must be returned within one week of enrollment to the guidance office or to the GradPoint teacher.

If this is a student's first time in the virtual learning program, he/she must take the Learning in GradPoint course, which provides an introduction to online learning and an overview of the GradPoint software.

### **Student Expectations:**

There is limited space in the computer lab. Enrollment in the program is a privilege. Students enrolled in the online credit recovery program are required to:

- Attend class every day until the assigned course curriculum is completed, their final grade is verified, and they receive a schedule change from their guidance counselor.
- Follow the Buffalo Public School Student Code of Conduct as well as the Acceptable Use Policy.
- Sign the student and parents/guardian contracts. Failure to meet the terms of the contract may result in removal from the program.
- Complete all password-protected tests (pre and post) under the supervision of a teacher.

### **Computer Lab Rules:**

- No food or beverage is allowed in the computer lab.
- Use of the computer is strictly for the credit recovery course.
- Computers are for school-related activities only, not for gaming, personal email, social media, and use of the Internet for help on assessments.
- Students may complete other class assignments only if permission is given by the supervising teacher.
- Use of the printer is for notes related to GradPoint courses only. Printing of other materials must be approved by the computer lab teacher.
- Show respect for equipment and all school property.
- All electronic devices must be turned off and put away.
- Remain in your assigned seat/computer until dismissal.
- Follow the Buffalo Public School District's Acceptable Use Policy
- Ask the computer lab teacher for help if you are experiencing any problems with GradPoint or your computer.

## Student and Parent/Guardian Contract

In order to participate in the Buffalo Public Schools' Virtual Learning Program, the student and the parent/guardian agrees to the following terms and conditions as indicated by the signatures below:

1. Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled sessions until the course is successfully completed.
2. The student will arrive promptly for every session and will not disrupt others working in the computer lab.
3. The student will use the scheduled time to work only on the virtual learning course.
4. Use of the computer is for school-related purposes only, not for gaming, personal email, social media, Google, etc.
5. The student understands that the minimum proficiency required by the GradPoint software is 65%. Credit cannot be awarded until this level of proficiency is achieved.
6. Students must take all password-protected tests (pre and post) under the supervision of a teacher.
7. If a student takes a test without supervision of a teacher, then the following will occur:
  - First offense – After teacher checks the date and time in GradPoint to determine the student took a test unsupervised, then the student can retake the test, under teacher supervision.
  - Second offense – If a teacher checks the date and time in GradPoint and determines the student took at test unsupervised for a **second time**, the student may be dropped from the course.
8. Students are required to complete the Learning in GradPoint course the first time they are enrolled in GradPoint. This course provides an overview of the GradPoint software and an introduction to learning online.
9. The student agrees to abide by all the applicable Buffalo Public School Acceptable Use Policy and Student Code of Conduct.

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date