

## Sample Opportunities for Virtual Students to Engage in Interactive Activities with Other Students



KSDE requires that virtual students be provided opportunities to engage in interactive activities with other students. Virtual schools and programs are strongly encouraged to facilitate opportunities for engagement rather than just waiting for it to happen by chance. Additionally, virtual schools and programs are encouraged to seek out new opportunities above and beyond the normal activities that are already required (e.g. orientation, conferences, state assessments, tutoring and graduation).

Below are ideas for interaction that were mentioned during the Spring Virtual Audits.

### Engaging in Interactive Activities with Traditional Students:

- Invite students to attend and/or participate in music and athletic events, theatre, and dances
- Allow participation in grade-level field trips at the traditional school
- Encourage students to take elective classes in the traditional school
- Allow participation in KSHSAA athletics and activities
- Invite students to college and career fairs and other themed events at high school
- Invite students to elementary and MS enrichment nights (Family Night, PTA events, carnival, Math and Reading nights, book fair, etc)
- Allow students to participate in HS clubs (FFA, Quiz Bowl, National Honor Society, Academic Decathlon, Science Olympiad, Key Club, Kayettes, Forensics, Debate, etc.)

### Engaging in Technology-Based Interactive Activities with Virtual Students:

- Require live lessons in e-learning system
- Require weekly virtual homeroom class in e-learning system
- Enable chat and discussion board functionality in e-learning system
- Facilitate study groups that meet virtually
- Create Facebook groups for different groups of students (by grade level, by course)
- Utilize Google Hangouts to videoconference with multiple students
- Utilize Google Communities to enable conversations and questions (virtual program could even implement a question of the week to engage participation)

### Engaging in Face to Face Interactive Activities with Virtual Students:

- Incorporate service projects into the curriculum
- Encourage participation in virtual student clubs (chess, music, poetry, technology, gaming, running, newspaper, debate, book, etc)
- Require students to attend onsite:
  - Weekly onsite time with other virtual students
  - Student led presentations with other virtual students as the audience

- Weekly discussion groups with students leading discussion
- Roundtable mini lessons each month
- Host special events onsite:
  - Back to school open house or cookout (with planned interactive activities)
  - Evening literacy and ESL classes for adults (or parents of students)
  - College and career fair for high school and adult students (postsecondary institutions Workforce Center, financial aid, GEARUP)
  - Onsite art classes
  - STEM events
  - End of year celebration (with planned interactive activities)
  - Special events with successful members of the community
  - Financial literacy days throughout the year in partnership with local bank
  - Personal Safety Summit
  - CPR/First Aid training to students
  - Field day event for students at the end of the year
  - Student appreciation day
- Host casual events with food at virtual school or program location:
  - Monthly pizza party
  - Potluck dinners
  - Fun Fridays pizza lunch and afternoon enrichment activities
  - Lunch and learn sessions on special topics
  - Wellness Wednesday luncheon on various health and wellness topics
  - Monthly movie and popcorn get together
  - Quarterly coffee break sessions
- Host offsite events:
  - Monthly field trip and enrichment days
  - College visits
  - Visit local places of interest (museums, zoos, Capitol, art exhibits)
  - Study sessions at libraries in communities where multiple students reside
  - Visit local historical landmarks and tie back to the social studies curriculum
- Celebrate holidays with special events, activities and volunteer opportunities
  - Potluck Christmas dinner
  - Fall festival
  - Holiday Open House
  - Trick or Treating onsite
  - Canned food drive and Thanksgiving Dinner
  - Making Valentines for Shut-ins

Contact Jessica Noble at 785-296-3163 or [jnoble@ksde.org](mailto:jnoble@ksde.org)