Welcome to LVS!

⭐ The premier virtual school in Kansas with a proven track record of student success since established in 2004.

⭐ Serving students in grades K-12 with Kansas-certified teacher support, world-class curriculum and supplementary educational programs.

⭐ College-Board certified and the only virtual school in Kansas accredited by the NCAA.

⭐ Providing individualized student support, including gifted and special education services.

⭐ Highly qualified staff of home schooling and career educators with more than 100 years of combined online instructional experience. Two-thirds of staff have master’s degrees.

⭐ Committed to building meaningful relationships with Kansas families in support of student success.

⭐ Active school community with family-led enrichment programs offered across the state, including in Manhattan, Lawrence/Topeka, Johnson County, Salina, Wichita, southeast Kansas and Leavenworth.

We invite you to learn more about what we have to offer students and families who choose to enroll with LVS. Please access our website at www.lvs.org to get to know more about LVS.

Have a specific question? Feel free to email us at lvs.registrar@usd497.org or call us at 785-832-5620; an LVS staff member will be happy to answer your questions and assist you in any way possible.
LVS is an **online public charter school**—statewide, based in Lawrence, Kansas. Our school is open to all Kansas resident students, K-12th grade, throughout the state. We offer many benefits to students and families that choose us as their educational partner:

- World-class curriculum and numerous supplementary educational programs
- A tuition-free online public school providing books, materials, manipulatives, and loaned technology (if needed)
- Self-paced, individualized instruction, including assistance for students who struggle, as well as opportunities for those who excel
- Kansas-certified teachers to support instruction, as well as accountability to the educational process
- No time and distance barriers; school anytime, anywhere
- Field trips and enrichment activities for all students

Learn More About LVS: visit www.LVS.org to learn more

---Frequently Asked Questions - Find answers to many of your questions about LVS.
---LVS Testimonials – Our families enjoy the option that LVS offers for their students; see what they have to say.
---Field Trips - Learn more about field trips and activities that are offered through our school.

**LVS Frequently Asked Questions**

Please take time to check out the variety of frequently asked questions about our school. If you have further questions, feel free to contact us via email at lvs.registrar@usd497.org or call LVS at 785-832-5620.
**Q. How is LVS different from traditional home schooling?**

**A.** LVS is part of the Lawrence Public School District USD 497, and students are registered as students in the district. Thus, we follow the expectations of Lawrence Public Schools. Students are public school students who work at home with a teaching adult (or overseeing adult for high school students). Lessons and materials are provided from LVS that meet or exceed the State Standards for each grade level. Students participate in Kansas state assessments.

**Q. How much does this cost?**

**A.** LVS does not have a tuition however, there is a $97 Books/Materials/Technology fee assessed yearly for each student as decided by the Lawrence USD 497 Board of Education.

**Q. When can I enroll my student? Can we start anytime during the school year?**

**A.** LVS has an open enrollment period for the following school year beginning early spring.

**Q. Do you enroll special education students?**

**A.** Yes, our school does accept special education students, both for special needs and gifted education. However, there are a few differences in enrollment expectations. As part of the enrollment process and required paperwork, parents MUST provide a current IEP (Individualized Education Plan) and the most recent comprehensive evaluation report.

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Please note that virtual education is an ideal option for many special education and gifted students. However, no educational placement is perfect for every student. Given this, the LVS Administration and the special education staff reserve the option to review each prospective student's enrollment information before formally granting placement in a virtual education setting.

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**Q. Can my student take band/orchestra/drama at my local school? Can my student participate in sports?**

**A.** Students have the opportunity to participate in elective courses and sports in their local district, being enrolled as a dual-enrolled student. However, it is up to the local school/district and LVS to approve of this dual-enrollment arrangement. Students in grades 1-12 have this dual enrollment option if approved by LVS; kindergartners are not allowed to dual enroll with the local school district.

Districts also have the option to approve middle school and high school students participating in their sports program. Students may only compete on the teams of their neighborhood school. Just like dual-enrolling in classes in the local school, families will need to communicate with local administration to determine if they approve participation and meet expectations.
Learning Coaches and Student Participation

Q. What are the expectations for the Learning Coach (teaching adult)?

A. K-8th grade Learning Coaches are expected to be actively teaching and working with their student on a daily basis. Lessons and courses are not designed for a student to complete totally independent of a teaching adult. The amount of time working directly with the student varies based on age and grade level, as well as student mastery. For example, a kindergarten student will interact with their Learning Coach for almost the entire amount of their school day, whereas, an eighth grader will be able to complete more independent practice (however, it is still expected that a teaching adult be working with the student daily).

High school students work more independently with parents providing support and accountability to the student. HS students meet more directly with their teachers in bi-weekly web conference sessions.

Q. Will I need to work with my middle school student, or will they be able to complete all of their work without my assistance?

A. While many middle school students are motivated and confident learners and can do much of the independent practice without assistance from a parent, it is EXPECTED that a Learning Coach (teaching adult) be working with their middle school student daily to provide instruction, guidance, support, and monitor daily activities/assessments.

Q. How will I know what to do each day?

A. Lessons and instructions are provided for the Learning Coach and student through the on-line school platform. Daily and weekly lesson plans are a part of this provided program. By following the schedule, students will be able to complete their year’s curriculum within the school year time frame.

Q. How much time do students spend on the computer?

A. We expect that students will spend approximately 25-30 percent of their time on the computer in the early grades and progressively more as they advance through the higher grades. Computers provide a balanced approach in education and act as powerful tools that can motivate, stimulate, and inform children about the world around them. They do not, however, replace a solid education; rather, they help facilitate one. LVS and our curriculum vendors use a unique multimedia approach that includes a great deal of well-written and designed textbooks, workbooks, and hands-on instruction materials.
Q. What if we take a vacation every year in February?

A. Families have the flexibility to enjoy a family vacation during the school year. Communication with the assigned Education Specialist (Kansas-certified teacher) to plan for missed days and completion of work will help to keep the student on track for their lesson completion.

Q. Are there any days we are required to do school?

A. Our school participates in the State Attendance Audit in mid-September. Students are required to be engaged in their coursework and logged into their on-line lessons on these particular days. More information about particular dates will be available once the school year starts. Attendance Audit is our way of accounting for the number of students enrolled in our school, which, in turn, determines the school state funding provided for our school to function.

Q. Do I have to do school Monday through Friday each week?

A. Families have the flexibility to plan their weekly schedule to fit their family’s schedule. For example, some students will plan their weekly schedule for Tuesday-Saturday to fit with a non-teaching parent’s work schedule, while others may plan in a weekly or monthly field trip day or a visit to grandma’s house (including accounting for missed lessons to be completed at another time). A typical student does complete school five days per week.

Q. What if my kid gets bored?

A. Students have the flexibility to move forward in lessons as they master the concepts. If they master a particular topic or skill quickly, they can move ahead. Students also have the time and flexibility to spend more time studying and discovering areas that interest them once they have completed their daily lessons.

Q. Can I teach more than one child?

A. It is possible to teach more than one child in the family. Learning Coaches will need to plan their day accordingly to provide time for direct instruction for each child. Education Specialists can help with planning a schedule that will work for you and your family.

Q. Do I have to take state assessments?

A. Students participate in Kansas state assessments in the spring. Assessments include reading, math, history, and science. Students complete the assessments in person at testing locations set up throughout the state and proctored by LVS staff.

High school students also take their semester finals in a face-to-face setting with LVS teachers.

Q. Is any preparation assistance provided for state assessments?

A. K-8th grade Education Specialists will offer a variety of web conferencing sessions to help with preparation for the state assessments. In addition, students complete Skills Checks with their Education Specialist to review concepts that will be assessed. Finally, print materials and resources are provided to the student as they prepare for the state assessments.
Communication

Q. Where do I meet my teacher?

A. Families have the opportunity to meet their assigned Education Specialist or High School teachers (a Kansas-certified LVS teacher) at our back-to-school events hosted in various locations around the state as school starts. Other opportunities to connect with Education Specialists and Teachers include a variety of field trips hosted by LVS, as well as during state assessments. (Note: not all Education Specialists and Teachers attend every field trip and activity.) In addition to opportunities to meet them face-to-face, teachers connect regularly with their assigned students and parents via phone, web conference, and email.

Q. How often do I meet with my teacher?

A. K-8th grade students and learning coaches (teaching parents) meet via phone and/or web conference on a regular basis. That might include one-on-one conferences or group conferences related to a particular subject. Students are not required to meet face-to-face with their Education Specialist unless there is an academic reason discussed between the Learning Coach and the Education Specialist. Students also may be invited to participate in group sessions via web conference to cover grade level topics and lessons in specific courses.

High school students are encouraged to attend bi-weekly live web conference sessions for each of their courses; this provides instruction in the course, as well as an opportunity to interact with the teachers and other students.

Q. Do we ever meet as a group with other students?

A. Many K-8th grade Education Specialists provide opportunities to participate in group web conference sessions for various activities including academic instruction, read-aloud story time of favorite books or novels, or student “Hall Talk” for middle school students.

High school students have a variety of options to meet in classes, as well as LVS hosted clubs.

Q. How does my student have opportunities to connect with other students?

A. Our school offers a variety of opportunities to connect with other students. These include, but are not limited to:
- LVS sponsored field trips
- Parent Led Enrichment Groups for students around the state for field trips and activities
- Middle School “Hall Talk”
- LVS and education vendor-sponsored contests, such as art contests, spelling bees, math contests
- Many local opportunities to meet with other students that are shared with the school community.

Q. What other ways does the school communicate with my family?

A. Besides regular phone/web conferences and group web conference sessions, Education Specialists will connect via email. Families also receive a weekly email message titled “Monday Mail”, which is our school-wide communication. This communication piece includes school-wide announcements, field trip information, as well as opportunities for outside enrichment activities.
Q. What are the core courses for a full time student?

A. A full time K-8th grade student at LVS is assigned courses in math, language arts, history, and science. Students have the opportunity to add an elective to their courses later in the fall.

High school students are offered courses to meet the required course completion for the state of Kansas, as well as a variety of elective choices. LVS is College Board certified and the only virtual school with NCAA accreditation.

Q. What materials and technology are provided for my student? When will I receive them?

A. Students are provided books and materials to complete their lessons based on their grade level. These include student guides, teachers’ guides, textbooks, workbooks, literature materials, science supplies, maps and globes, and math manipulatives. Education Specialists also provide suggestions and access to a variety of on-line resources for students and families to use for enrichment or individual academic practice. If needed, K-8th grade families are provided one computer per three full-time students enrolled in our program. Seventh and eighth grade students have the option to request their own computer, if needed, provided additional computers are available to loan. If needed, each high school student may borrow a computer.

Materials arrive approximately two weeks prior to the start of school. Computers are loaned out from LVS; we either ship to you directly or provide a variety of check-out dates around the state prior to the start of school.

Q. What is not included?

A. Students still provide their own basic school supplies, such as notebooks, paper, pencils, pens, crayons, scissors, etc. In addition, there may be household supplies needed from time to time for lessons, such as science. For students in grades 3-8, they will also have a list of novels to choose from for the literature course, and those are not provided but are readily available at local libraries or bookstores.

Q. Do you provide internet access for my family?

A. Each family provides their own internet access. High speed internet is recommended to be able to access the on-line curriculum to its fullest. School loaned computers are equipped with a wireless card to be able to access a wireless network in your home.

Q. What electives are offered, and at what grade levels?

A. K-8th grade students are offered the opportunity to add an elective to their core courses later in the fall of the school year. This allows students to become acclimated to their core courses before deciding on an elective. Students complete one elective at a time.
- Kindergarten-second grade students are offered the choices of music or art.
- Third-eighth grade students are offered choices of music, art, or foreign language.
It works with our schedule, and it is very flexible. They provide all of the curriculum and the lesson plans, so that’s a huge burden off me.

–Melinda B.

When we weighed homeschooling versus public school, I felt like LVS was the best of both worlds. We have the flexibility of schooling at home and the support and guidance of an actual teacher who helps us out along the way.

–Chrissy B.

I believe my child would have been lost in the system if not for the opportunity to home school her. Not only home school her, but doing so with this system, with this school, and most certainly, with OUR teacher!

–Melissa V.

Our family is so thankful that we have the option of homeschooling our children through Lawrence Virtual School. As a family, we love to travel and are involved in many extra-curricular activities, and by homeschooling we have the flexibility to pursue those activities without falling behind in our studies. We can work our school schedule to fit our home life schedule. We are grateful for the teachers and staff who are so supportive and are helping us meet our goals.

–Susan K.