The What

• The NNPS Virtual Connection is a comprehensive online learning program for eligible K-8 students living in Newport News – it is a partnership between NNPS and Connections Learning

• Virtual Connection students receive a VA Standards-compliant grade-equivalent education from fully-certified Connections Learning teachers at no cost
The Who

• For K-8-eligible students
• Families must be current residents of Newport News
• All NNPS enrollment requirements (immunizations, birth records, etc.) must be met
• A residence change away from Newport News would result in withdrawal from the program
The How

• Families work with NNPS and Connections Learning to develop a customized course load for a particular grade level

• Fully-certified teachers facilitate the student learning through live electronic interactions as well as self-paced work both online and offline

• Parents / guardians deliver supplementary instruction using provided materials

• Families keep track of student progress and results online
Curriculum
Engages
Instructs
Conceptualizes
Enlightens

Student
Explores
Creates
Learns
Grows

Learning Coach
Motivates
Collaborates
Schedules

Teacher
Evaluates
Personalizes
Intervenes
Clarifies
Monitors

LiveTutor
Instructs
Supports
Unsticks
Remediates

Connexus®

Connexus®
Connections Academy
2012 Parent Satisfaction Survey Results

96% of parents agree that the curriculum is high quality.

95% of parents agree their children are satisfied with the program.

96% of parents are satisfied with teachers’ helpfulness.

94% of parents are satisfied with the variety of learning activities.

93% of parents would recommend Connections Academy to other families.

94% of parents agree that our technology tools improve their child’s learning experience.

Based on a survey of Connections Academy families conducted in February 2012 by Leo J. Shapiro and Associates.
The When

• Virtual Connection courses mirror the traditional NNPS calendar
• Major NNPS holidays and student breaks are observed
• Courses follow the semester format adopted by NNPS
• The Virtual Connection registration window is June 8th through August 4th
The Where

• Students work from the convenience of their own homes or other suitable environments

• Coursework is both online and in physical material form

• Students do not utilize NNPS school buildings or NNPS transportation
The Benefits

• A wide range of courses, including electives, is available
• Courses are taught by fully-certified-by-VA teachers and meet VA Standards of Learning
• There are no fees to families
• Courses have both live and self-paced components
• Gifted and Talented versions of courses are available
The Benefits

• Courses are accessed online and can be done from within the privacy of the home
• Access to teachers during “office hours” and access to live-chat tutors are both available
• Parents/guardians have full access to monitor student work, grades, and teacher interactions
• Students are fully-enrolled in NNPS
• Students can optionally participate in after-school activities and try out for JV-sports (8th grade) at their zoned schools
The Responsibilities

The Student

• Should keep up with all assigned work
• Should maintain satisfactory grades
• Should dedicate enough time daily and weekly to fully engage in the learning
• Should seek out assistance from teachers, tutors, and parent/guardians for difficult material
The Responsibilities

The Parent/Guardian

• Should maintain a good learning environment
• Should provide adequate computer and Internet access
• Should deliver instruction as guided by teachers and the curriculum
• Should monitor student work/grades and record student work hours
• Should communicate regularly with teachers
• Should ensure the student takes all relevant state SOL tests at NNPS-designated times and locations
What Makes A Good Online Student?

Students successfully taking courses online...

• Are often self-motivators
• Are conscientious about deadlines
• Keep and balance schedules well
• Thrive without a teacher ‘over their shoulder’ six hours a day
• Read and write well
The Courses – Elementary

- Language Arts K-5
- Math K-5
- Science K-5
- Social Studies K-5
- Art K-5
- Ed Tech and Online Learning K-5
- Music K-5

- Physical Education 1-5
- Elementary Chinese I-II
- Elementary Spanish I-II
- Sign Language
- Web Quest
- Home Life

- Gifted and Talented versions available

www.connectionslearning.com/connections-learning/curriculum/courses
The Courses – Middle

- Language Arts 6-8
- Math 6-8
- Algebra Readiness
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Science 6-8
- Social Studies 6-8
- Art 6-8, Digital Arts
- Ed Tech and Online Learning 6-8
- Health and Physical Education 6-8
- Middle Chinese I-II
- Middle Spanish I-II
- Sign Language
- Web Quest
- Music I-II
- Keyboarding
- Entrepreneurship
- Gifted and Talented versions available

www.connectionslearning.com/connections-learning/curriculum/courses
The Accommodations

• Text versions of non-text media are available
• Screen-readers can access the content
• Navigation can be done with a keyboard
• Accessibility help is available for vision-impaired, blind, hearing-impaired, and deaf students
• A consultation can be requested of NNPS to determine potential eligibility for additional services
The Next Steps

• Weigh the pros and cons – Is online learning ideal for your child?
• Ask questions (see Contacts)
• Explore www.connectionslearning.com for more details on coursework
• Register for Virtual Connection during the window of June 8th – August 4th
  – A customized registration packet will be available online (www.nnschools.org) and at the NNPS Administration Building beginning June 8th
  – Registrations will not be accepted before or after the window
The Contacts

- James Maxlow, Supervisor of Instructional Technology  
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- Nancy Sweat, Executive Director of Curriculum and Development  
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We are available for E-mail, phone, or in-person consultations.