



GCS SWIVL Remote Learning (SRL) Guidelines K-8

Gilbert Christian Schools is happy to provide a quality remote virtual learning program for students that seamlessly integrates with live in-person instruction. Our design has taken into account the potential flexibility needed for the upcoming school year. Be assured, the exemplary, Christian education that you have come to expect will be provided by our caring teachers. We look forward this year to partnering with parents to prepare the next generation to impact the world for Christ! Below you will find some of the major guidelines for the GCS SWIVL Remote Learning (SRL) Program:

K-8 PROGRAM DETAILS

What devices and platforms are included in the SRL Program?

Swivl device Provides: Distance - Participation - Flexibility - Relationship

The SWIVL option provides the opportunity for students to participate with their class in “real-time” while being off campus for an extended period of time. It is a flexible way to maintain the strong teacher/student relationships we cultivate at Gilbert Christian Schools. For more information on the SWIVL technology, please visit their website: <https://www.Swivl.com>

Zoom Program

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool with a local, desktop client and a mobile app that allows users to meet online, with live video. <https://zoom.us/education>

Google Classroom

Google worked with educators across the country to create Classroom: a streamlined, easy-to-use tool that helps teachers manage coursework. With Classroom, educators can create classes, distribute assignments, grade and send feedback, and see everything in one place. <https://edu.google.com/products/classroom/>



How does a student declare the intention to conduct coursework via the SRL format?

Students must specifically inform the school of their desire to take any courses virtually by completing the GCS survey sent out from superintendent Jim Desmarchais. This survey is a request to participate in the SRL program whereupon the administration will review and approve the requests. After Monday, August 10, this decision may not be altered without a written email request to the K-8 school administration and permission received to switch formats. If, after reading this updated information, you would like to change which learning “option” you prefer, you may do so by filling out a new survey. Survey for Start of School 2020-21

What kind of K-8 student does best with SRL?

We believe a live, in-person learning program is best for our students. Studies have shown that students are more successful with live instruction. We understand that there are some exceptions and reasons why a student would need to do the SRL Program for the 2020-21 school year. Students opting for SRL Program should be self-starters, self-motivated, and self-advocates. These are important qualities to consider as the SRL format requires a more mature, self-disciplined approach to learning.

What personal devices will students use to engage in the SRL Program?

Students will be expected to provide their own device (MacBook, Surface, Chromebook, iPad, etc.). GCS will not be providing school computer equipment for the 2020-21 school year. It will be the parent’s responsibility to monitor their child’s technology use.

Can a student participate in the SRL Program without consistent internet access?

No. Families must have stable and consistent internet access. K-8 students must be in touch with their teachers and/or the school with same day notification of any technical difficulties. Students will be removed from the SRL Program and enrolled in live, in-person courses if consistent internet access cannot be maintained.

Are there any courses that will not be available via the SRL Program?

At the K-5 level, our elementary specials classes, except for PE, will be available via Swivl. However, there will be limitations in some subjects, so live participation in these subjects will be optional. Each specialist will have enrichment activities in their Google classroom as well so that students can still enjoy learning more about these wonderful subjects at a time that is convenient to their family.

For middle school students, all subjects in a student’s schedule except for PE will be available via Swivl.



Does a family have to commit to an all-or-nothing approach to SRL Program?

No. However, students will be required to select which program they will be participating in at the start of each quarter. If a student has any short term health concerns, they will have the ability to make use of this program.

Parents must notify administration via email, if there is a reason to change their child's educational program of choice.

Can a student remain on campus and take SRL courses?

No. If a student is on-campus, they will be enrolled in the live, in-person courses.

Do SRL students still need to be uniform?

Yes, all SRL students are participating fully in the GCS classroom and need to wear a GCS polo as if they were attending classes in person.

Will the SRL courses be conducted in a synchronous or asynchronous manner?

GCS administration highly recommends synchronous instruction for student success. Students should be prepared to join live, daily class sessions at the regularly scheduled time of the day. Consistent and punctual participation will be a part of the course grading. Not attending courses will make it difficult to get a passing grade. If there are extenuating circumstances, a parent may make a request in writing (email) to campus administration outlining the need to adjust the program.

Your child will have breaks from viewing the computer screen whenever the teacher is not providing instruction such as working on assignments, passing periods, specials, recess, lunch, PE, etc. The lessons will be recorded, so families can also choose to watch at a more convenient time when necessary.

All asynchronous access does NOT extend assignment deadlines or give extensions for assessments. All students need to turn in assigned work on time and communicate with teachers as usual if a problem arises.



Can SRL students turn in assessments and assignments whenever they want?

Assignments and assessment (tests and quizzes) due dates will be the same for live in-person and SRL students. Reduced credit will be applied to late work, as normal.

What if I change my mind about the SRL Program three weeks into the school year?

Our program has been designed to accommodate a seamless transition between live, in-person courses and SRL Program, but switching scenarios requires a parent email request to the administration. The request will be reviewed and acted upon within three days. This process is necessary to allow for internal database and teacher adjustments.

Gilbert Christian Schools reserves the right to discontinue a student's choice to use the SRL program, at any time, if acceptable academic progress is not consistent or proper communication with the teacher is not maintained.