

BeLA

Bellefonte eLearning Academy

FAQ, August 2021

Hello! Thank you for your interest in BeLA. We hope that this FAQ sheet helps to answer some of your questions about BeLA. Please visit our website for additional information: [BeLA](#)

**Please note, this is a fluid document and may change based on any new guidelines or stipulations that may be presented to our educational institutions.*

Q: How do I enroll my student in the BeLA program?

A: You will complete an online registration form. The form is linked to the district website as well as this document.

Link to the BeLA registration form: [Registration](#)

The deadline for registration for BeLA is Tuesday, August 11th.

Q: Will my student's teacher be the same teacher that they would have at their current school?

A: Most of the classes will be offered through Odysseyware, Pearson, and Edgenuity. The teachers of those courses are employees of those program providers. The high school Social Studies classes will be offered by a BASD teacher. All courses will offer office hours and support to all of their students through virtual means as well as phone calls and emails when necessary.

Q: Will my student have any connection to the Bellefonte Area School District?

A: YES!!! There will be BASD staff members who will be available to support your student. They will be checking in on attendance, academic progress, and making connections with you and your student on a regular basis. A BeLA

student is still 100% considered to be a student of the Bellefonte Area School District.

Q: Are there any live classes?

A: **High School and Middle School** - BeLA courses are all asynchronous, which means that there are not any required live classes. Students are able to work on their coursework 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Students will not have an assigned time to log in to their courses, as they may work at any time of the day. The direct instruction component is provided to students in lessons and students have the flexibility to access it at their convenience.

Elementary School - BeLA courses at the elementary are predominantly asynchronous but students may be required to participate in weekly synchronous learning. Students still have the flexibility to complete work at their convenience but may also be required to participate in live interactions with their teachers.

*Synchronous learning means that students will have a virtual class in live time with a teacher such as when you are able to video chat with someone.

*Asynchronous learning means that the teacher and the students are not in a class at the same time. Students are assigned materials and are permitted to work at any point of the day.

Q: Do I need to provide my own laptop?

A: No. A Chromebook will be provided by the school district for the student to use while they are enrolled in BeLA.

Q: How will my student know what to do the first time?

A: A tutorial video will be provided to all BeLA students. This will show the student how to log in to the program as well as additional information to help support virtual learning. A student orientation will also be provided for the student to complete prior to starting their courses.

Q: How are classes chosen for my High School student?

A: High School students' guidance counselors will be consulted regarding credit requirements. Students' online courses will be selected based on their credit needs. Additional online electives can be selected by students. All courses will

be selected from the Odysseyware Course Catalog. Students will only be permitted to attend a class at BAHS if that course is **not** offered online. BeLA students may also attend CPI. If your student chooses to attend the high school for these exceptions or CPI, transportation will be the responsibility of the family.

Q: How are classes chosen for my Middle School student?

A: Middle School students will be enrolled in the 4 core classes for their grade level - Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. They will also be enrolled in one additional course per semester. Students will not be permitted to take additional Specials classes at BAMS at this time if they are enrolled in BeLA. However, the exception will be for Band, Choir, and/or Orchestra. If your child wishes to still participate in Band, Choir, and/or Orchestra, you will need to provide transportation to/from BAMS for the rehearsal during the last period of the school day.

Q: How are classes chosen for my Elementary student?

A: Elementary students will be enrolled in the 4 core classes for their grade level - Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Students will not be permitted to take additional Specials classes at their elementary school at this time if they are enrolled in BeLA.

Q: What if I want my student to have different classes than the ones which are assigned to them? Do we get to choose which classes my student has in BeLA?

A: K-8 students will be assigned to the same core classes that they would be taking at their home school. Students in high school will have the ability to pick their courses based upon their credit and graduation requirements.

Q: How will my student's special education needs be met?

A: Your student will still be assigned to a special education teacher. Special education paperwork will need to be reviewed/revised as the paperwork was

most likely written to reflect the needs of a student who is learning in a brick and mortar school setting. There may be different accommodations to address needs of the student in the virtual learning environment. Your student's special education teacher will be in contact with you at the start of the school year to determine how to best meet your student's needs.

Q: Are there AP class options available for my high school student?

A: Yes, there will be AP class options available.

Students will have to access a different website to complete these classes. The following AP courses will be offered online through Edgenuity.

- Calculus AB
- English Language & Composition
- English Literature & Composition
- Environmental Science
- French Language & Culture
- Human Geography
- Psychology
- Spanish Language & Culture
- Statistics
- U.S. Government & Politics*
- U.S. History
- World History: Modern

Q: How do I help my student be successful in online learning?

A: This will differ depending on the age of the student. At the secondary level, students should be self-motivated and have the ability to advocate for themselves. For elementary students especially, parents/guardians will need to be able to support their students and help advocate for the student's needs. Communication between the student/parent/guardian and school is essential to

success. As parents, you will be helping your student develop necessary skill sets and fostering their academic growth.

Q: How will my student's attendance be tracked? What happens if my student does not work for the required hours each week?

A: Students will be required to work one hour per day per class. For example, if your student has 5 classes, that is 5 hours a day or 25 hours per week, based on a 5 day school week. Please note, cyber learning can take place at any time of day, 7 days a week. If a student is not able to work on a Tuesday, then that time needs to be accounted for on another day. Attendance will count on a weekly basis. If your student does not meet the required hours of learning per week, we will follow the attendance procedures set forth by our district policies.

Q: Can my student still participate in extracurricular activities after school?

A: Yes, your student may still participate in extracurricular activities such as clubs and sports after school. The attendance of students involved in extracurricular activities is mandatory. Students must meet the weekly attendance policy in order to be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities. An exception will be made if the student has an approved educational, medical, or legal appointment in which case the students must present documentation such as a dated receipt, appointment card, return to school form or fax indicating the date and time from the place of the appointment. A parental note is NOT acceptable.

Q: How does my student receive support if my student is struggling in the program?

A: BASD staff members will be able to help support students who are struggling. Students will also have the opportunity to work with their online teachers and will have access to the online learning chat option.

Q: When do I have to make a final decision about enrolling my student in BeLA for the Fall semester?

A: The deadline for enrollment and registration for the 2021-22 academic year is **Tuesday, August 11th.**

Q: If we decide to remain in BeLA for the full year, what do we do?

A: We will reach out to all students in January to confirm their spring semester enrollment in BeLA. You can also contact the BeLA coordinator.

Q: If my student chooses to return to the brick and mortar building, will it be an easy transition?

A: We have made every attempt to match our online curriculum with the curriculum of the district. At times, there may be differences in the scope and sequence of delivery of the content. We make every attempt to make the transition as seamless as possible for students.

Q: What is my responsibility as a parent/guardian?

A: A student's education is more successful when there is parent/guardian involvement in the process. Online learning is no exception. Parents/guardians will need to be involved in the student's learning and help to monitor their student's progress. If your student is struggling, you may need to help advocate for your student by contacting the proper BeLA support system.

Q: How is BeLA different from "homeschool"?

A: According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, "homeschooling" is defined as follows: "Home education programs (also known as homeschooling) are programs where the education of the student is directed by the parent or guardian or such person having legal custody of the child or children."

(Retrieved from [Home Education and Private Tutoring](#))

For a home education program, the parent/guardian takes responsibility for providing education to your student.

BeLA is a Bellefonte Area School District cyber program where the courses are assigned to your student and BeLA teachers are the ones providing the education. The role of the parent/guardian is to support the learning of the

student which differs from “homeschool” where the parent/guardian is responsible for providing the education to your student.

**For additional information on cyber education, please visit the “School News” section of our district website - <https://www.basd.net/Page/13986>*