

Home Connections

Supporting all Pendleton students



Handbook 2023-2024



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Home Connections

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What is Home Connections?



Home Connections is in response to a growing need for home learning options in the Pendleton School District (PSD).

Home Connections is for any student in grades K-8 who lives in the Pendleton School District. Both experienced families, as well as those who have never implemented home learning of this type are welcome to enroll.

Pendleton School District is already serving many learning families with its digital based Pendleton Virtual Learning Academy (PVLA), the district recognizes an additional population of families who also enjoy home learning, but focuses on a traditional homeschool approach with paper-and-pencil curriculum and a strong family support.

Home Connections directly serves this population of families by offering high quality curriculum from Timberdoodle. At no cost to participating families, PSD provides all curriculum, as well as a certified teacher who oversees the program and provides targeted support, progress monitoring, learning labs and pacing to the programs participants.

Home Connections is not available for high school students. Families with older students who are interested in home-based learning are encouraged to enroll with Pendleton Virtual Learning Academy.

How Does Home Connections Work?



Participating families work with a certified teacher who coordinates the Home Connections program. Families receive pacing guides, required assignments and semester portfolio submission guides.

Although, Home Connections does not provide student instruction, staff is available to respond to learning questions and needs that arise. Students are welcomed to attend learning lab at the district office. Families can opt to meet regularly with the Home Connections Coordinator who can supplement/reinforce instruction, answer curriculum questions and troubleshoot other issues.

Families who prefer home-based learning will find many benefits associated with enrollment such as:

- *Free high quality curriculum for all content areas including art and STEM.
- *Supplemental curriculum for thinking skills and test prep.
- *Partnership with a certified teacher who provides learning support, curriculum guidance and pacing.
- *Flexible scheduling to accommodate unique family needs.
- *Access to all PSD services, supports and extra curriculars.

Home Connections Requirements

Families enrolled in the Home Connections program enjoy a great deal of flexibility and autonomy in their day-to-day schedules. They also agree to requirements as program participants.

Program enrollment for the year

Curriculum is provided at no cost to participating families if they remain in the program for a year. Families who exit the program prior to the end of the school year will be charged for their curriculum on a prorated basis (curriculum costs PSD \$1000.00 per student).

Pacing and progress monitoring by Home Connections

Home Connections families are expected to meet monthly and semester pacing guidelines as determined by the Home Connections Coordinator.

Portfolio development

As part of pacing and semester report card development, all Home Connections students are required to submit monthly work samples for each content area. These pieces become the basis for grades and portfolio collection.

Daily attendance check-ins

Per state requirements, Home Connections families must check-in daily with the Home Connections Coordinator to log attendance.

Is Home Connections Right For My Family?

Home Connections is one learning option within the Pendleton School District, and for some families it is a great fit. How do you know if it is the right fit for your family? Consider the following:

Do you have 4+ hours per day to devote to instruction and guiding your student?

Paper-based home learning is time intensive. Plan to devote at least 4 hours per day to actively instruct and guide your student (your student cannot be expected to navigate the curriculum independently).

Do you feel comfortable maintaining a structured learning schedule for your student?

Families who tend to be most successful with home learning typically keep high structured daily schedules and don't deviate much.

How does your child respond to academic instruction from you?

Teaching your child presents a different dynamic than typical day-to-day parenting. Consider what that relationship may look like for you and your student.

How do you feel about daily attendance checks and regular communication with Home Connections staff?

School district partnership, attendance and pacing is a required part of the program. We honor parents as their child's primary teacher as we provide regular communication to support learning needs.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will it take to get started?

Your student's curriculum will be ordered once you turn in your completed registration form. Typically, orders arrive within 1-2 weeks.

When can I make the change to Home Connections if I am in a different school or program?

Enrollment changes are typically made and recommended at the beginning of a new semester.

What if my middle or high schooler wants to do Home Connections?

We recognize that Home Connections may appeal to students of all ages, we are unable to offer the program to students beyond 5th grade.

What if we want to have a four-day school week?

The design of Home Connections affords a degree of flexibility to participating families. Families develop a schedule that suits them with an understanding that daily attendance check-ins are required Monday through Friday, regardless of the school schedule your family follows. Home Connections follows the Pendleton School District school calendar.

What if we take time off from schooling due to illness or absence?

Missed school days in Home Connections are treated the same as absences in physical buildings. Simply pre-arrange or excuse absences by contacting the Home Connections Coordinator.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

What if my student has special learning needs?

As a student of the PSD, Home Connections students have access to the same learning supports as all district students. IEPs, 504s and TAG learning plans are supported and carried out.

Can we still use some of our own curriculum?

You must make progress in and complete assignments assigned to you. You can supplement with your own curriculum as you desire, but it cannot be substituted for any required Home Connections work.

Do we have to meet regularly with Home Connections staff?

Regular, in person meetings are not required. The Home Connections Coordinator will be in regular contact with you and either you or the coordinator may request in-person meetings.

What if we start Home Connections and find it is not a good fit for our family?

We recognize that Home Connections may not be a perfect fit for all families. If you find that your needs change and you wish to pursue a different direction for your learner, you are asked to complete the current semester. Failure to complete the school year may result in financial charges for the curriculum PSD supplied for you.

District and Family Agreement

Pendleton School District Home Connections Program

District and Family Agreement

This agreement outlines the educational curriculum, services, requirements and disclosures for participation in the Home Connections program through Pendleton School District.

The Home Connections program is an option for parents desiring a more significant role in their student's education. Pendleton School District will be an active partner providing a quality program, families should weigh each student's needs carefully to determine which PSD program will create the best educational future for their student, meet their needs and maintain grade-level proficiency.

Registration

To participate in Home Connections students need to be enrolled in the Pendleton School District.

Curriculum

While there is a variety of homeschool curriculum options for students and families, Pendleton School District has selected Timberdoodle Grade-Level Kit: Language Arts, Math, History, Science, STEM, Art and Thinking Skills. Families will also receive The Great Body Shop to meet grade-level health requirements from the state of Oregon. It will be up to the family on how it is best taught to their student.

Essential Conversation: Timberdoodle represents a full year curriculum and comes at a significant cost to the district. Once purchased, curriculum cannot be transferred to another student. Families are expected to stay in Home Connections for the year to avoid prorated fees for the cost of the curriculum.

By signing below, the parent/guardian indicates they approve the curriculum selection and financial obligation that would result in termination of enrollment from the program prior to the school year ending.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Administration Signature: _____ Date: _____

Attendance Guidelines and Engagement

Students in the Home Connections program have the flexibility on how they attend and engage in learning. Students and their parents work together to determine when its best to engage in learning. As a district, we encourage all of our students to attend daily to provide consistent practice and growth with grade-level concepts and skills. To support your students learning, the Home Connections program will:

1. Send a suggested lesson plan for curriculum based on the academic year.
2. Review/confirm attendance logs and enter into Synergy
3. Communicate with families if attendance logs indicate no learning for the week and develop a plan to increase engagement in curriculum.
4. As desired, provide time in learning lab
5. As desired, provide feedback to students on major tasks and projects

As critical partners in a student's success in the Home Connections program families will need to:

1. Complete attendance logs
2. Communicate with Home Connections staff when there is a need for additional support.

Essential Conversations: Completion of the Home Connections attendance log is how we pay for curriculum and teacher support that is critical to this program. It is highly encouraged that students spend time Monday-Friday working on classes to provide the best learning growth. However, we understand that all families are different and this program allows for students to participate in school with individualized schedules.

Signature indicates understanding of attendance expectations

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Administration Signature: _____ Date: _____

Staff Availability

While families may choose alternative schedules to support their student's learning. Home Connections staff will be available and responsive Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 3:15pm. Parents can expect communication and support during these hours.

Feedback and Progress Monitoring

Historically, within homeschool programs, parents have taken on the primary role of teaching, providing feedback based on learning objectives set within the curriculum or by themselves for their students. In the Home Connections program, parents will remain in this primary role across all grades (K-8), but will have access to a certified teacher for instructional guidance and planning. Teachers will provide feedback and support in-line with grade-level standards. Home Connections students will receive formal grades and a report card.

Within traditional homeschool programs through the ESDs, the state requires students to complete skills assessments so that families can have nationally normed information on their student's achievement and progress academically. Within the Home Connections program, we will provide this support through the iReady Reading and Math diagnostics that can be completed at home or at our learning lab. These results will help us to monitor your student's growth, progress towards grade-level proficiency and provide key interventions if needed.

Signatures indicate understanding that student and parents understand information in this section and agree to complete Fall and Spring iReady diagnostics in reading and math.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Administration Signature: _____ Date: _____

Additional Supports and Services

Home Connections will work with families to provide additional supports to students as needed or identified. Identification for additional supports will follow standard district process. Qualifying student plans are developed by education teams. Families need to recognize that, in some cases, these additional services and/or supports may require families to access school buildings, teachers and case managers where the identified support is housed.

Technology

It is important to know that the vast majority of Home Connections curriculum is not online. Student work is primarily completed within the physical resources provided by the curriculum. Whether using your own or district technology, students and parents are expected to communicate in a positive and pro-social manner with staff and other students. **Complete technology agreement if needed.**