



Differences between RVC courses and RCPS school based online courses

Successful RVC learners must be motivated, disciplined, self-directed, and have good time management skills.

The RVC environment is different than what the student may be used to in the school based online model. Successful RVC online learners must be motivated, disciplined, self-directed, and have good time management skills. Online TEAMS meetings will be conducted on a weekly basis, some after regular school hours, and daily check-ins will be available to remediate or accelerate students as needed.

RVC online courses are a mixture of asynchronous course work with Synchronous support.

Unlike the school based online courses, the RVC online courses are predominantly asynchronous and self-paced with-in content units. The entire courses are *not* self-paced and will be led by an RCPS instructor who will guide the students through assignments, due dates, quizzes, tests, and communication on a unit by unit basis. Each course, depending on the content area, will include an expectation of approximately 40% of instructional time engaging with synchronous communication and instruction. These synchronous opportunities will be flexible and may be available after normal school hours. RVC asynchronous courses present an advantage to non-traditional students, who may need a more flexible schedule in order to pursue their educational goals. Additionally, RVC asynchronous courses are also advantageous to students who learn best when they can review course lectures and materials multiple times and through a variety of exercises.

RVC Students depend even more on the facilitation, assignment clarification, and feedback provided by their instructor.

In an RVC asynchronous online course, without the live direct traditional class schedule component, students depend even more on the facilitation, assignment clarification, and feedback provided by their instructor. There are many time-saving ways to add frequent and meaningful feedback through using both written and multimedia strategies and flexible scheduled TEAMS meetings either during the school day or after school hours.

Majority of communication from student-to-instructor and student-to-student involves non-verbal asynchronous correspondence.

The vast majority of communication in RVC from student-to-instructor and student-to-student involves non-verbal asynchronous correspondence largely in the form of email, instant messages (Remind), video and audio messages, discussion forums and reflections. While different from a face-to-face course or even the school based online course structure the student may be used to, an advantage of an RVC



online course is that a student can generally communicate more ideas, as well as clear, comprehensive messaging given that students may view, reread and review again and again.

Discussions in the RVC environment may offer more opportunity for students to think about, research and even draft their discussion posts and responses.

Rich and complex student-driven class discussions may be facilitated in both school based and the RVC environments, but with distinctly different advantages and disadvantages. Because they are asynchronous and often occur over longer periods of time (even days), discussions in the RVC online environment may offer opportunities for students to think about, research and even draft their discussion posts and responses. Furthermore, in the RVC environment, extroverted and introverted students stand on equal footing, which can result in more open, and honest discussions.

RVC Online courses are often more personal and individualized.

RVC student engagement in learning may feel, or even actually be, more personal and individualized than in a face-to-face setting. In RVC courses, completely teacher-led lectures and in-class exercises are replaced with student-directed learning options that are universally designed for all learners. Generally, instructors interact with students more frequently on an individual and personal basis, facilitating differentiated learning for each student throughout the course.

Students are our focus.

In RVC courses, instructors are not on the stage, students are our number one focus. Instructional content can be written and re-written or recorded and re-recorded over and over again until it is effective in meaning and it's intended instructional goal. Students can read and re-read or watch and re-watch again and again, as many times as they need until they feel confident that they understand the content.

The RVC Instructors role is focused on facilitating student efforts to think critically, apply and make sense of new knowledge.

Learning in the RVC environment looks different than learning in a face-to-face or school based online class. Learning online with RVC becomes more about facilitating student efforts to think critically, apply and make sense of new knowledge.

Disclaimer note: If RVC is selected as an option for FULLTIME instruction RVC cannot guarantee the same course catalog as the home school. RVC will provide options to fulfill graduation requirements. At this time RVC is not an approved NCAA course provider, please consult your home school counselor if your student is pursuing a NCAA scholarship opportunity for the best action plan.