Berrien BookShark FAQ’s

Q: Can Berrien BookShark students participate in school sports?

A: BookShark students are under the umbrella of the Virtual Academy, so like Academy students, they cannot participate in school sports.

Q: Is Berrien BookShark part of the Parent Partnership?

A: It is a separate program from the Partnership (full-time v. part-time), but managed by the same staff and is also a program under the Virtual Academy umbrella.

Q: How do we register for Berrien BookShark?

A: See the process outlined on the BookShark page of the Partnership website under Classes.

Q: Is Partnership registration separate from BookShark registration?

A: Yes. BookShark registration happens only once/year, starting in the spring, only after an interview, and on a first-come, first-served basis. Partnership (electives) registration happens online in August and December, with strict deadlines.

Q: How many Partnership classes can BookShark students take?

A: 2 per semester. Students must register during Partnership registration times and choose the Bookshark registration pathway, not Home/Private school. This is the same limit on electives as partnership students in the Virtual Academy.

Q: Will students in grades 6-12 be able to use Berrien BookShark in the future?

A: Yes, pending a successful K-5 pilot year, we hope to expand the program the following year.

Q: Do BookShark classes require projects similar to the Partnership class project requirement?

A: No. Core classes do not require weekly questions or a project. The partnership electives do require weekly mentor questions and a project.

Q: What are the requirements of enrolling as a full-time virtual student?

A: At the time of registration, all full-time students are required to:

\*submit student’s birth certificate  
\*submit a current up-to-date vaccination record or current official State of MI vaccination waiver

\*submit proof of residency

\*complete the online BSPS enrollment form

\*complete an EDP (Educational Development Plan) online for all in grades 7-12

During the school year, all students will be required to:

\*participate in fall NWEA testing according to grade level

\*maintain weekly contact with mentor teacher and adequate progress in the BookShark program

Q: How will a mentor teacher be assigned?

A: One of our partnership’s current certified teachers will also serve in the BookShark program. The mentor that is assigned for your BookShark program will also be the mentor for the partnership weekly contacts.

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Q: What is the role of our assigned mentor teacher?

A: Your mentor teacher will keep in weekly contact with you to grade assignments (as much assistance as the parent wants with this), answer any questions you or your student has, continually monitor student progress. This will be the same teacher that maintains 2-way communication and the PBL process for the two elective classes.

Q: What happens if I decide to discontinue the program during the year?

A: If your student is transferred to another public or private school, there is no penalty, simply return all books and unused materials. If you decide to homeschool without BookShark, you may incur fees for used curriculum and materials depending on the timing of the withdrawal.