

# Academic Plan

**Mill Springs Academy is committed to balancing the health and safety of our community with the need to provide a value-based education dedicated to the academic, physical and social growth of those students who have not realized their full potential in traditional classroom settings.**

Mill Springs Academy has always taught the way each student learns. We are committed to maintaining this practice no matter what the method of instruction might be. While the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges, we believe that the demands placed on our academic program have also created opportunities to strengthen our program. This document provides insight into Mill Springs Academy's objectives and strategies for delivering a successful academic program for each student during, and after, the COVID-19 pandemic.

**GOAL: To increase accessibility to learning by offering various levels of instruction through multiple delivery methods using one primary tool, all while maintaining fidelity to the Georgia Performance Standards.**

## OBJECTIVES

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- Adhere to Georgia Performance Standards
- Maintain personal instruction that includes daily interaction with students' teacher(s)
- Make learning more interactive increasing student engagement
- Differentiate instruction
- Improve overall accessibility to course content, assignments, and assessments
- Create tools that offer several ways for students to collaborate
- Enhance communication between Directors, teachers, students, and parents
- Support a paperless work environment



**Mill Springs Academy faculty and staff are committed to continuing to collaborate with each student individually, teaching them how they learn best while providing a curriculum with academic rigor that challenges each student. Below are objectives and strategies the school has prepared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

### **STRATEGIES**

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- Develop unit lesson plans that focus on teaching state standards and student mastery of the standards. Each unit will include:
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Instructional materials
  - Instructional strategies
  - Assessment tools
- Develop hybrid lessons that allow students to self-select on-campus or eLearning.
  - Each class will start with direct teacher instruction
  - Students will be given application practice exercises and/or projects to work on their own
  - Teachers will be available to work with individual students' daily either in person or online
- Incorporate Project-Based learning as a key instructional practice.
  - Students are encouraged to choose the line of inquiry, resulting in higher engagement
  - Students are required to develop higher-level thinking skills by applying learned content to real-world situations
  - Students work is differentiated based on individual achievement
- Incorporate Guided Reading as an essential instructional practice.
  - Students work in small groups where the teacher provides explicit teaching and support for reading skills
  - Students read texts at their instructional level.
  - Students tap into background knowledge by reading text that reflects the content standards of the course.
- Utilize Google Classroom as the primary eLearning system.
  - Create and organize assignments by weaving together Google Docs, Drive, and Gmail
  - Allow teachers and students to provide real-time feedback
  - Improve class communications
  - Enhance organization by utilizing Drive folders