FRANKLIN FIRST LEARNING ACADEMY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FRANKLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTIONS

Do students have to log in at the same time every day?
No, but they do have to log in every day and complete work to be counted as present but not at specific times.

Can students work on weekends to catch up?
Yes, but they still must log in during the regular school day to count attendance.

Can students take a course at the high school?
Yes, they can take certain electives or a specific course in the building such as band, choir, etc.

Are honors classes available?
Yes, honors classes are available in most core courses in grades 7-12.

Is the grading scale the same as in the brick-and-mortar schools?
Yes, the grading scale is the same.

Do students have to take state tests?
Yes, students in grades 3-12 will be required to take state-required tests in person.

Can students work ahead?
Yes. The courses are self-paced.

Did Franklin teachers create the curriculum?
No, FASD is using curriculum created by StrongMind that follows the same Pennsylvania standards as are being taught in the brick-and-mortar schools.

What is the expectation for teacher response time for student questions?
The teacher is expected to respond to questions within 24 hours, except for on weekends.

Will seniors be required to complete a senior graduation project?
Yes, seniors will work with their English and Social studies teachers on their senior project. They will be required to complete a senior projects and present it in person.

Is there an option to move between brick-and-mortar programs and the Franklin First Learning Academy?
Yes, students can move from one program to the other based on the situation as needed.

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STRONGMIND QUESTIONS

Who designs and creates StrongMind courses?

StrongMind invests an immense amount of time, research, and resources for each course. These courses are developed by an in-house team in Chandler, Arizona, comprised of highly skilled curriculum experts, creative professionals, and former educators who are passionate about delivering the very best learning experience and results for students and educators.

Are StrongMind courses aligned to state standards?

StrongMind courses are developed using **Backward Design** to ensure that course instruction and assessment are fully aligned to state standards, preparing students for state assessments, college, and career. StrongMind standards experts monitor changes and revisions to state and national standards. Courses are revised as needed to reflect updated standards. Correlation reports are available for state and national standards upon request

Are StrongMind courses accessible for learners with a wide range of disabilities?

Yes, StrongMind courses are developed using a multi-faceted approach to ensure accessibility for all learners. StrongMind Courses are compliant with WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) 2.1 A & AA and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. To learn more about StrongMind's accessibility, review our **VPAT (Voluntary Product Accessibility Template)**. StrongMind Courses are also designed using **Universal Design for Learning,** which is an approach to teaching and learning that gives all students equal opportunity to succeed..

How do students access StrongMind courses?

StrongMind Courses are a true online solution. Courses are available via the Internet any time, with an updated operating system. Students must be connected to the internet to complete assignments. For students in grades 6-12, no materials need to be printed. For students in grades K-5, printable materials are easily available to print directly from Courses, as well as from Learning Coach Resource and Teacher Resource Guides. For details on specific devices and other technical information, please see our **System Requirements.**

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STRONGMIND QUESTIONS

Do students complete any work that is not computer-based?

Teacher Resource Guides for math, English language arts, social studies, and science include lesson plans for teachers to assign to students as individuals, a small group, or a large group. Some of these plans include activities that can be completed offline with materials readily available in a students' home. Teachers assign these activities at their own discretion.

For grades K-5, some activities require age-appropriate kinesthetic skills, such as learning to write or count objects. These activities can be completed in the home environment, and any necessary materials are commonly found in a home and listed at the beginning of a lesson.

For all grade levels, Physical Education courses require students to move. Students (or parents for younger learners) log physical activities in a fitness log.

How does StrongMind support different types of learners?

StrongMind curriculum includes numerous supports to ensure all students experience academic success. Visual cues throughout a lesson help scaffold and organize learning into digestible chunks. Based on user experience (UX) research, colors and layout are chosen with accessibility in mind. Various types of scaffolding are included—for example, students may choose to listen to text being read aloud by simply highlighting and clicking the "listen" button. Students can also hear text translated into a variety of world languages. Courses contain multimedia elements such as videos, interactives, projects, and discussion boards to help students learn and apply understanding in a variety of ways. Using student and teacher feedback from rigorous user testing, in addition to assessment data, StrongMind continually evaluates and adjusts its content to help learners achieve their goals.

How does StrongMind engage learners?

StrongMind curriculum engages students in a variety of ways. Courses contain multimedia elements such as award-winning videos, interactives, projects, and other immersive experiences. Courses also engage students through relevant, current, and relatable content. Using research-based strategies and incorporating the latest, cutting-edge technology keeps StrongMind courses ahead of the curve. For example, StrongMind graphic designers used lighting, color, and depth to create an inviting environment for an interactive science lab. In our Interior Design course, students use Augmented Reality (AR) to explore room spaces. These types of activities allow students to explore the real world while working within their courses

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How does StrongMind measure student learning?

StrongMind courses include diagnostic, formative, interim, and summative assessments. The assessments are intentionally crafted to provide a range from very low-stakes practice, using technology-enhanced items that are each aligned to standards, to higher-stakes assessments that formally measure learning. Performance-based tasks, such as writing assignments, labs, and guided projects are also included to measure skills and concepts that cannot easily be assessed through computer-scored testing.

How does StrongMind help parents support students who are learning at home?

To support students and families working at a distance from teachers with online instruction, StrongMind provides an Observer role that is designed for parents, mentors, or other instructional coaches. The observer role allows parents to observe all student content and data but not manipulate any of the data.

StrongMind has created additional resources for the parents of young learners in grades K-5, as these students will need additional support while learning at a distance from teachers. These resources are designed to maximize the learning experience for both learners and their families. These resources include:
Printable worksheets to reinforce concepts and skills

- Activity suggestions for extension and enrichment
- Materials lists for lessons
- Course objective information