

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL CONCERNS

Q. What is online learning?

A: Online learning is education that occurs over the internet. It is often referred to as 'e-learning' and involves no in-person interaction between teachers and students

Q. What are the benefits to online learning?

A. Online education is known for its flexibility, but studies have identified several additional benefits of attending class online. Among them:

- **Communication:** Many students are more comfortable engaging in meaningful discussions online than in a physical classroom. These have social anxiety; or simply need more time to organize their thoughts.
- **Personalized learning:** Not all students learn the same way. Web-based learning allows teachers to deliver the same content using different media, like videos or simulations, personalizing learning. Online classes providing round-the-clock access to materials and also let students study when they feel most focused and engaged.
- **Accessibility:** Online programs transcend time, geographic, and other barriers to education.
- **Efficiency:** Studies show online students tend to achieve the same learning results in half the time as classroom-based students.
- **Engagement:** Online teachers can use games, social media, virtual badges, and other engaging technologies to motivate students and enhance learning.

Q. Is online education as effective as face-to-face instruction?

A. Online education may seem relatively new, but years of research suggests it can be just as effective as traditional classroom, and often more so. According to a U.S. Department of Education analysis of more than 1,000 learning studies, online students tend to outperform classroom-based students across most disciplines and demographics. While these reports list several plausible reasons students might learn more effectively online—that they have more control over their studies, or more opportunities for reflection—medium is only one of many factors that influence outcomes. Successful online students tend to be organized self-starters who can complete their work without reporting to a traditional classroom. Learning styles and preferences matter, too.

Q. Where can I find updated information about the school?

A. All relevant information will be posted on the school's website fass.edu.tt
Additionally, the school can be contacted at 677-7439, Mondays-Fridays between 8:30am and 2:30pm.

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Q. When is school scheduled to reopen?

A. School is scheduled to reopen on the 1st September 2020. The 1st - 10th September is designated to planning. On Friday 11th September Form teachers will host class orientation and teaching will start on Monday 14th September 2020.

Q. How long will the physical schools remain closed?

A. To ensure the safety of students and teachers, schools will remain closed until Ministry of Health has determined that it is safe to resume face to face classes

Q. What time does the school day start?

A. The school day starts at 8:30am

Q. How long is a class?

A. Each class is 50 minutes long with 15 minutes breaks between classes.

Q. How many sessions are there in a day?

A. There are five 50-minute periods with 15 minutes breaks in between and an hour lunch break.

TECHNOLOGY

Q. What devices are acceptable for online learning?

A. Computers and tablets are recommended for online learning. Smartphones are not suggested for prolong learning activities but can be used for What's App and accessing emails.

Q. How do I access classwork if I do not access to the Internet/devices?

A. You may collect a printed package and return complete assignment weekly.

Please inform the school whether you require prepared packages of assignments via phone call (677-7439) or email (FyzabadAnglican@yahoo.ca).

Please communicate the student's name and class, as well, as the proposed date/time of collection of packages.

LEARNING AND INSTRUCTION

Q. Do students need to attend classes at specific times?

A. Online learning has two components:

1. **Synchronous** component, where students view live lectures online and sometimes participate in discussions through videoconferencing platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, Moe Platform's BigBlueButton, Microsoft Teams, and Blackboard Collaborate.

2. **Asynchronous**, or self-paced, portion. Students complete coursework on their own time but still need to meet weekly deadlines, a format that offers flexibility for students. Teachers will be using Google Classroom, where you use your Gmail account to access the content.

Q. Will students be provided with a class schedule?

A. Yes. Students will be provided with a class schedule or class time table, which is provided on the school's website, fass.edu.tt – Online Classes

Q. How do students interact in an online course?

A. Students may interact through discussion forums, social media and – particularly for group work – videoconferencing, as well as via phone and email.

Q: What is my recourse if my child encounters difficulties during an interactive session and is unable to complete the session?

A: Synchronous or “live” sessions will be supplemented by asynchronous learning, using Google Classroom, that the student can access when it is convenient.

ASSESSMENT

Q. How will online learning be assessed?

A. Online learning will be assessed through a variety of means namely class participation, quizzes, projects, worksheets etc.

Q: What provisions are available for students unable to complete assignments before the given deadline?

A: Students will be able to communicate via What's App, email, or Google Classroom with teachers and can explain their situation, and the teacher will use their discretion in granting an extension.

REFERENCES

- Friedman, J. & Moody, J. (2020). How online classes work: 10 frequently asked questions. U.S News and World Report, Education. Retrieved from: <https://www.usnews.com/higher-education/online-education/articles/2018-01-16/how-do-online-classes-work-10-frequently-asked-questions>
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