Fannett-Metal
Cyber Academy (for) Tiger Students
~ FM CATS ~

2026-2027
Addendum to the
Student Handbook

Fannett-Metal School District
14823 Path Valley Road
Willow Hill, Pennsylvania 17271
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www.fmtigers.org

Following you will find specific policies and procedures of the Fannett-Metal Virtual Academy. All students are required to follow the student handbook set forth by the Fannett-Metal School District and Administration. This handbook is supplemental to the FM Student Handbook

OVERVIEW

The Fannett-Metal School District Cyber Academy for Tiger Students (**FM CATS**) is an educational learning environment designed to meet the needs of students who desire to pursue their education in a non-traditional format. The Fannett-Metal School District recognizes the value of distance learning yet continues to carry the belief that the interaction with professional educators truly extends learning to a higher level. This educational program offers a distance learning experience that includes a variety of interactions with highly qualified professional educators and school counselors.

Like the educational program of the Fannett-Metal School District's traditional "brick and mortar" system, the learning environment of **FM CATS** is based on the National Common Core Standards and Pennsylvania Academic Standards. This standards-aligned curriculum emphasizes the students' demonstration of mastering specific skills by engaging in an academic program that promotes proficiency in all curricular activities through distance learning. Students participating in **FM CATS** will demonstrate their proficiency in a variety of ways. This is necessary because students will range academically from those who have a sound skill base in all areas to those who have learning deficits.

FM CATS strives to engage students in a highly motivational, student-centered educational program that relies on basic educational principles while utilizing the latest information and communications technology to promote student achievement in fostering higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills. Students have a chance to master essential content skills and to build a strong foundation to compete in the workforce of today and tomorrow.

What sets FM CATS apart from other programs?

FM CATS is operated by the Fannett-Metal School District.

The building principal and school counselor will monitor your child's education.

Students who attend FM CATS will graduate with a Fannett-Metal Diploma.

Students will be able to participate in *all* extra-curricular activities and field trips.

If any issues arise, coordinators of the FM CATS program are just a phone call or short drive away!

Fannett-Metal School District Cyber Academy (for) Tiger Students Staff
~ FM CATS ~

Administrators:

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Tara Will Phone: (717) 349-3011; email: willt@fmtigers.org
Secretary: Mrs. Tina Atherton (Phone: (717) 349-3009; email: athertonc@fmtigers.org)

Elementary Principal: Mrs. Stephanie Shoemaker Phone: (717) 349-3001; email: shoemakers@fmtigers.org
Secretary: (Phone: (717) 349-3000; email: @fmtigers.org

Secondary Principal: Mr. Todd Best Phone: (717) 349-3013; email: bestt@fmtigers.org
Secretary: Mrs. Tina Neil (Phone: (717) 349-3073; email: neilt@fmtigers.org

Director of Special Education/ Student Services: Phone: (717) 349-2086: email @fmtigers.org

Additional Virtual Academy Staff:

Global Data Consultants (GDC): IT Consultant Phone: (717) 349-3091; email: fmsdtech@fmtigers.org

Elementary School Counselor: Mrs. Laura Jones Phone: (717) 349-3006; email: jpnesl@fmtigers.org
Secondary School Counselor: Mrs. Michelle Moore Phone: (717) 349-3015; email: moorem@fmtigers.org

Athletic Director: Mr. Greg Best Phone: (717) 349-3016; bestg@fmtigers.org

Nurse: Mrs. Teresa Barnish Phone: (717) 349-3052; email: barnisht@fmtigers.org

GOALS

The Goals of the Fannett-Metal Cyber Academy (for) Tiger Students (FM CATS) are to:

- Offer to the students of the Fannett-Metal School District a non-traditional learning environment that is in line with the district's mission and vision statements.
- Provide students who desire a non-traditional learning environment with opportunities to acquire the education necessary to earn a diploma from the Fannett-Metal School District.
- Provide students who select **FM CATS** with balanced educational experiences, academic programs, and interactions with highly qualified professional educators.
- Establish for participating students individualized learning plans that are consistent with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards and graduation requirements of the Fannett-Metal School District.
- Provide students with a sense of ownership and responsibility for their academics.

ELIGIBILITY

Students who apply to attend the **Fannett-Metal Cyber Academy (for) Tiger Students (FM CATS)** will have their applications reviewed by **FM CATS** Coordinators in consultation with the building-level school counselor. It will be the responsibility of the coordinators to determine student eligibility in conjunction with the building-level school counselor to determine admittance and/or removal from the program. Students who transition to **FM CATS** must enroll for at least one nine-week marking period unless otherwise determined by the building administrator and school counselor. The building administrator and school counselor will also review requests upon enrollment. Enrollment in **FM CATS** will be limited to the first ten (10) school days of the first, second, and third marking periods. Seniors may not enroll in **FM CATS** the second semester of their senior year without approval by the Superintendent. Any enrollment exceptions shall be reviewed, and approval will be considered by the Superintendent.

ENROLLMENT

Students must register in the Fannett-Metal School District before enrolling in FM CATS. Registration for **Fannett-Metal Cyber Academy (for) Tiger Students (FM CATS)** begins with the coordinators of FM CATS (administrator, building-level school counselor, and other essential staff). Persons of parental consent must complete an enrollment form (copies can be found on page #12). Students enrolling in the program, along with their person of parental consent, must sign a contract with FM CATS (page #13). At this time courses will be scheduled, passwords will be issued, other directions will be given, and guidance on how to "trouble shoot" for technical issues will be shown.

ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

Full-time FM CATS Student:

- Students will be enrolled in Edmentum.
- If the student does not complete the course in a satisfactory manner, the person of parental consent and/or student may be required to reimburse FMSD.
- Students are not required to be in-person but are welcome to utilize school resources (Library/Counseling Office/Science Lab Materials) as needed on a pre-approved basis.
- Students are required to follow all state mandated testing guidelines. Students must also meet all Career Education & Work (CEW) Standards, as well as all graduation requirements set forth by FMSD.
- Progress will be monitored on a regular basis.
- FMSD reserves the right to limit enrollment to FM CATS to only those students who demonstrate educational progress.

Students with an IEP/504:

- IEP/504 plans will need updated to reflect online learning accommodations.
- A person of parental consent and/or student will need to participate in IEP/504 revision meetings.
- Essential staff (OT/Speech/etc.) will be added as a Coach to the student's online learning platform.

COST OF COURSES

The cost of these courses is based upon the successful completion of each course and the situational criteria outlined by the FM CATS student handbook. If a student fails a course or drops out of the program prior to the end of the semester, payment may be required to retake the course and/or pay for an extension. Breakdown of course costs in the event of a failure or incomplete course may vary as prices are derived from a percentage of the total cost.

ORIENTATION/CHECK INS

All students and their person with parental consent are required to attend/view an orientation meeting. This meeting can be viewed on the Edmentum Learning Platform. The Edmentum platform also provides helpful tutorials person of parental consent should take the time to view.

The coordinators of FM CATS may also require students to come face-to-face and be monitored if academic goals are not being met. Additional interventions may be implemented to ensure the student's academic success.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Your participation in **FM CATS** requires you to be organized, motivated and willing to assume responsibility for your education. Failure to adhere to any of the following requirements may contribute to your removal from **FM CATS**.

Virtual Academy students must:

1. Have *reliable* internet access. The Internet is not provided by the school district.
2. Complete 4 hours of online work for 5 days per week
3. Complete a prescribed amount of work for each subject area
4. Access individual school email account daily
5. Make contact with the appropriate district staff when support is needed
6. Complete activities by established deadlines
7. Complete and submit their own work
8. Work in the order in which the assignments are posted. (Students may accelerate course completion with the approval of the building administrator and school counselor.)

EXPECTATIONS FOR PERSON WITH PARENTAL CONSENT, INVOLVEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student success is greatly impacted by parental involvement. During orientation, the person with parental consent will be shown how to monitor their child's progress. Parents are requested to contact the building-level school counselor at least once a month. You can contact your school counselor via email, telephone, or in person.

- Establish parameters for completing assignments (Time, Environment, Goals, Pacing)
- Show interest in student's education and progress

- Monitor progress

ATTENDANCE

We understand that students work at different paces based on their academic ability. It is *recommended* that students spend a minimum of one hour on each subject per day depending on their course load. With flexible scheduling, this may be stretched over 7 days. **FM CATS** building administrator and school counselor will review student login time on a regular basis. Self-reflection is an integral component of the monitoring process. Students will be challenged to consider the following:

1. Pacing: Are you at pace, behind or ahead? Adjust your online time accordingly.
2. Attendance: Are you working every day? Adjust your schedule to meet this goal.
3. Performance: Are you passing or performing at the expected level? If need be, adjust to improve performance.

Students who fail to meet the requirements set forth in FM CATS can be dismissed from the program.

Attendance is taken to ensure that students are working online. Students must attend school every day (*see school calendar*). FM CATS will not be subject to inclement weather days, and the last day of instruction for FM CATS will be specific to the program and is adjusted for FM CATS so grades can be evaluated and entered. The last day to submit material will be the Friday before the last day of school. The last week of school will be utilized for contacting the school counseling office regarding scheduling or returning to brick-and-mortar learning.

FM CAT students must participate in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and/or Keystone Exams according to state requirements. Students will be required to take these assessments/exams in-person. If the student is absent on the day of the test, he/she will automatically be marked absent for the day. Work completed online will not be adequate to mark them as present.

Due to the nature of the cyber school model, instructional time and progress can be entered on any day (e.g., weekends, holidays, etc.) and at any time, 24 hours a day - seven days a week. Students are expected to log into each scheduled course in the online system each scheduled school calendar day. If attendance is not recorded on a school day as listed on the school calendar, the student is marked as absent. If a student fails to log into his/her account for **three** consecutive days, **FM CATS** administrator and/or building-level school counselor will be in contact with both the student and person with parental consent (via email, mail, or phone call). The district will treat the three consecutive absences in the same manner as students who attend the regular "brick and mortar" school.

Daily reports can be generated using the instructional software and district monitoring tools to ensure that the student is "present" and working for the minimum amount of time. Students who are absent from online schoolwork must submit a written excuse (can be emailed or delivered) by the person with parental consent to the respective building secretary within three (3) days of the absence. In the case of extended illness, the student should communicate with the **FM CATS** building administrator and school counselor to complete all work missed in a reasonable length of time. Failure to follow this policy may result in dismissal from the **FM CATS** program.

After five (5) or more days absent within the first forty-five (45) days of school during the school year, a letter of concern will be mailed to the person with parental consent regarding the excessive absence. Ten (10) or more days absent after the forty-fifth (45) day of school during the school year, a letter of concern will be mailed to the person with parental consent indicating that subsequent absences must be verified by a written excuse from a licensed physician.

Students who are enrolled full-time in FM CATS who are at any time in the school term absent from school for ten consecutive school days, may thereafter be removed from the FM CATS active roll unless the district has been provided with evidence that the absence can be legally excused or compulsory attendance prosecution has been or is

being pursued.

Students who are enrolled full-time in FM CATS are required to be in attendance (log in and launch a course) every school day. If students are not in attendance, students will need to provide a legitimate excuse regarding the absence. Pennsylvania School Code states that students in public school must attend school regularly because being present is a requirement of a good education. Healthy students should not miss more than three (3) or four (4) days of school each year. Examples of excused absences include:

- personal Illness
- medical, dental, clinic or hospital appointment,
- death in immediate family,
- educational field trips *(must have pre-approval by principal),*
- situations deemed as emergencies according to the principal's discretion.

All other absences are considered to be unexcused. If students are continually absent (not logging in and launching a course) but also involved with school extra-curricular activities, including sports, student continued participation in those activities will be called into question unless attendance improves.

PROGRESS MONITORING

Students are expected to meet with their online teachers as needed and/or required by their instructor. The **FM CATS** building-level school counselor will email/mail marking period progress reports to the student and the designated person with parental consent. Students and those with parental consent can monitor academic progress via the Edmentum Portal.

Prior to the end of each nine-week grading period, the school counselor and building principal will review the academic performance of the student. Upon completion of this review, it will be determined whether the student will continue in the **FM CATS** program. Persons with parental consent may be requested to come to the school to participate in this process. All policies and procedures contained in this document will be reviewed. Please note that if a student is not meeting expectations, he/she may be removed prior to the end of the marking period.

CAREER-PLANNING

Students must complete career readiness activities as required by their school counselor. These activities may be completed online or through a direct meeting with the school counselor, depending on the activity and student needs. These career readiness activities will become part of the student's career readiness cumulative folder. Students will be contacted by their school counselor with further details about each career readiness activity as it is assigned.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

CLUBS / ACTIVITIES / ORGANIZATIONS / CO-CURRICULAR

As a member of **FM CATS**, students are eligible and are strongly encouraged to join in and participate in all clubs, organizations and co-curricular activities offered by the district. Students will need to meet eligibility requirements.

ATTENDANCE AT DANCES/PROM/ASSEMBLIES

Students enrolled in **FM CATS** are permitted and encouraged to attend all school activities and functions. Please refer to the Fannett-Metal Student Handbook for eligibility requirements and guidelines.

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

FM CATS secondary students participating in extra-curricular activities before public audiences or inter-scholastically (i.e., sports, plays, band, and academic competitions) will lose their eligibility if they fail two courses weekly. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period, shall be reported on a weekly basis and shall be filed in the principal's office. In cases where a student's cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period does not, as of each Monday of the activity, meet the standards provided for in this section, he/she shall be ineligible immediately following that Monday through Sunday of the following week. If a student failed any *two* classes during the previous grading period, the student will be ineligible for the first *fifteen days* of the next grading period. The student may practice during this fifteen-day period, but the student cannot participate in any competition.

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO DESTROY IRRELEVANT EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

FM CATS maintains educational records for students enrolled in the District. The records are reviewed at transition times as designated in the school code. Those times when the student moves from elementary to middle school, when the student moves from middle school to high school, at high school graduation, and five years after the student graduates from high school. Information that is no longer relevant or required by Law to be maintained will be purged from the student's file. Only transcript information is retained after graduation. The educational records of your child will be held for 45 days following the transition times identified above. During that time, you have the right to inspect, review, or copy at your expense any of the information. In order for the person with parental consent or eligible student to inspect, review, or copy the education records, a written request must be made to Fannett-Metal School District, 14823 Path Valley Road, Willow Hill, PA 17271.

NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

- Information available through the Internet may be protected by copyrights or trademarks. Transmission of copyrighted or pornographic material in violation of any federal or state regulation is prohibited.
- Computer users should be aware that the Internet contains offensive material.
- The Internet is a vast worldwide network with very few limitations or restrictions. Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. The Fannett-Metal School District is not responsible for any information obtained on the Internet.
- Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data is prohibited. This includes the uploading or creating of computer viruses. Hardware or software may not be modified or destroyed. Users may not change settings or load personal programs onto any of the district's computers without authorization from a sponsoring teacher or the technology support staff.
- Students may not use the Internet for any commercial or for-profit purposes related to the online educational materials provided by the school district.
- Students may not include pictures, descriptions, or any other such references to school employees or other students on student-created web sites without signed permission from employee or student. Violation of this provision will result in immediate termination of **FM CATS** privileges, administration of appropriate school discipline, and possible referral to local police authorities.
- It is a felony offense in the state of Pennsylvania "to display or cause to display any explicit sexual material … on any … viewing screen in such manner that the display is visible … in any establishment where minors, as part of the general public, may be exposed to view all or any part of such materials." (Title 18 PA Crime Code-Sect. 5903) The FMSD Acceptable Use Policy in its entirety is available on the district's website.

HEALTH RECORDS

Students enrolled in **FM CATS** are required to acquire health screenings and maintain school health records the same as the students in each grade level within the "brick and mortar." This is in accordance with regulations set forth by the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education. This means that every student in each grade must receive a height, weight, Body Mass Index (BMI), and vision screening each year of school. These screenings will take place in the Nurse's Suite at the secondary school and may be arranged through the nurse's office (Teresa Barnish (717) 349-3052, barnisht@fmtigers.org). The school nurse will then maintain these records.

In addition, other health services are required in the following grade levels:

Kindergarten or 1st grade: Medical and Dental Examination
3rd grade: Dental Examination
6th grade: Medical Examination and Scoliosis Test
7th grade: Hearing Test, Scoliosis Test, and Dental Examination
11th grade: Medical Examination and Hearing Test

Each of these examinations can be conducted by school health officials when offered to traditional students in those grade levels at no cost or person with parental consent can elect to have his/her own private family physician/dentist perform these examinations at a cost to the families. If the latter is the case, the person with parental consent must provide proof to the school district of these exams. Forms for this purpose can be obtained from the school nurse or website. The school district is also obligated to ensure that students have the proper immunizations and can request these records from the person with parental consent at any time. If you have any questions about required immunizations, please contact your family physician or the school nurse.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The current graduation requirement is 27 credits. Curricular graduation requirements are:

Minimum required credits a student needs to graduate are as follow:			
English	4 Credits		
Math	4 Credits		
Science	3 Credits	One Credit between the two	7 Total Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits		
Arts and Humanities	2 Credits		
Physical Education	1-2 Credits		
Health	.5 Credit		
Graduation Project	.5 Credit		
Electives	7 Credits		

Additional graduation requirements:

1. State Assessments
   - All students must participate in all available state assessments for graduation.
2. Graduation Project
   - In order to help students to be prepared for their next steps in life, all students graduating from the Fannett-Metal School District must complete a culminating project. This project will encompass many diverse options and will conclude with an exit interview. The foundation of this project is embedded in career exploration, which will prepare the student to pursue future endeavors.
3. Career Portfolio
   - Students must complete a Career Portfolio as outlined in the graduation project.

Students are advised to monitor their academic progress continually to be sure that graduation requirements are met.

By the conclusion of the senior year, students must complete community service hours totaling twenty (20) hours for post-secondary or twenty-seven (27) hours for those not pursuing post-secondary education. Students must present verification that they have done something for our community. Completing all the hours at once may not be considered as adequate.
Class rank will be included only during the senior year for transcript purposes. Otherwise, it will not be published prior to the senior year. Rank will be determined via the student information management system. The system takes into account the 4.0/5.0 grading scales. 5.0 classes include any early-to-college or advanced placement courses.

GRADING SCALE

GRADE	PERCENTAGE	4.0 SCALE	5.0 SCALE
A+	98-100	4.00	5.00
A	94-97	3.75	4.50
A-	90-93	3.50	4.00
B+	87-89	3.25	3.50
B	84-86	3.00	3.00
B-	80-83	2.75	2.75
C+	77-79	2.50	2.50
C	74-76	2.00	2.00
C-	70-73	1.75	1.75
D	65-69	1.00	1.00
F	00-64	0.00	0.00

Grades will not be posted to CSIU until the end of each semester. Students' in-progress grades can be monitored through the Edmentum platform.

PENNSYLVANIA SYSTEM OF SCHOOL ASSESSMENT (PSSA) Keystone Exams

Students must participate in PSSA and/or Keystone exams, as appropriate to their grade level, according to state requirements. These exams are conducted in the Fannett-Metal school buildings. If the student is not present on the day of a test, the student will automatically be marked absent for the day. Transportation to/from the school for testing is the responsibility of the student.

For testing dates, please refer to the PDE website.

CHANGE OF NAME, ADDRESS, AND/OR TELEPHONE NUMBER

Please report any change of name, address, or telephone number to the FMSD Secretary as soon as possible.

FM CATS AND EDOPTIONS ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP

The Fannett-Metal School District is working in conjunction with EdOptions Academy to offer rigorous, engaging online courses through our own FMSD cyber academy known as **FM CATS**. Kindergarten through grade 5 students will be assigned online courses through the Calvert Academy. While students in grades 6-12 will be assigned courses through Edmentum.

FM CATS Student Enrollment Form

We are excited that you and your child have decided to take this adventure of online learning. We believe you will find that our program offers the benefits of a brick and mortar schooling as well as the flexibility of online learning. Our job is to make sure that your child is successful in his/her endeavors and that he/she makes the most of the learning experience offered through FM CATS.

Building-level contact information is below:

Middle/High School Counselor: Michelle Moore

Email: moorem@fmtigers.org

Phone Number: 717-349-3015

Elementary School Counselor: Laura Jones

Email: jonesl@fmtigers.org

Phone Number: 717-349-3048

Please fill out the information below so that I may get your child registered for their online learning experience!

Student Information:

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Gender:** _____

Phone Number (if applicable): _____

School Issued Email: _____

Preferred Login Username: _____

Preferred Login Password: _____

Person with Consent Information

Person with Parental Consent: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Preferred Login Username: _____

Preferred Login Password: _____

STUDENT CONTRACT

Failure ~~to~~ abide by any conditions listed in the FM CATS Addendum may result in removal from the FM CATS program. The school also reserves the right to claim financial compensation in such cases.

Student's Agreement

I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this agreement. Date: _____

Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Person with Parental Consent Agreement

I agree to myself and my child abiding by the terms and conditions of this agreement. Date: _____

Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Coordinator/Principal's Agreement

I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this agreement. Date: _____

Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Computer Information:

Manufacturer: _____ Model Number: _____

Serial Number: _____

edmentum™

EDOPTIONS ACADEMY

FMSD Virtual Learning Partner for K-12

Online courses with real-world support

Did you know FMSD partners with EdOptions Academy and Calvert Learning to offer high-quality online instruction paired with state-certified educators that is specifically created for K-12 students? If your student is struggling in the traditional classroom, learns at a different pace than their peers, or if your family schedule requires more flexibility, EdOptions Academy online courses may be the right fit.

What you need to know

EdOptions Academy is a leader in high-quality virtual learning.

Our courses:

- We are accredited by AdvancedEd and feature carefully curated, research-based curriculum designed to engage elementary learners and built to your state standards.
- With a library of 400+ options, our academy includes problem-based activities and projects that challenge students to apply what they learn in deeper, more meaningful ways.
- Keep students engaged with interactive multimedia resources including skills-building games, videos, quizzes, and virtual labs.



Partnering with FMSD K-12 Students and Families

What you can expect

- Pair engaging research-based digital curriculum aligned to PA State Standards with highly qualified, certified virtual teachers.

- We are designed for students whose families are enthusiastic about facilitating a highly personalized academic journey.

EdOptions Academy online courses powered by Calvert Learning or EdOptions are designed to give students a truly personalized learning experience. Students and their families enrolled in our K-12 courses will:

- Be able to access their course(s) 24/7, from any computer connected to the internet. Many courses are optimized for mobile devices, including tablets.

- Work closely with their state-certified EdOptions Academy online teacher, with regular communication via video conferencing, phone, and email. Families will play a hands-on role in facilitating collaborative instruction.

- Be exposed to engaging activities designed to meet the needs of young learners, including videos, audio content, and problem-based interactive lessons.

- Have access to pacing and progress monitoring tools to help stay on track.

Continue to be a part of your local school community with access to school-provided supports



Ready to get started?

Contact your student's school counselor to learn more about virtual. learning with EdOptions Academy at your school and enroll today!