

GO-TO GUIDE

FOR ALL THINGS TECH

We're so glad you're here and officially on your way to joining **Optima Academy Online (OAO)**!

Whether you're starting in August or joining us mid-year, we want you to know:

You're going to do amazing here—and you'll fit right in.

As you get started, give yourself a little grace. The first few weeks can feel like a big adjustment—learning new logins, getting comfortable with the technology, and settling into the rhythm of online school. That's totally normal, and we're here to support you every step of the way.

Need Help? Help for current students.

You can join our **daily tech support sessions**, reach out to your teacher, or contact the front office—we're just a message away!

For 3rd grade students and up using a VR headset (3rd graders start in the spring of their 3rd grade year):

Welcome to the virtual world! If you've received your headset, be sure to:

- Keep your headset **charged** and stored in a **cool, dry place** reserved for school use only.
- Jump in and **create your avatar**—we recommend making it look like you and using your **real first name**, so your teachers and classmates can recognize you in VR.
- Log in a few minutes early, when possible, to make sure everything is working smoothly.


You'll have opportunities to explore engaging virtual locations and experience our immersive learning environment firsthand. And yes—there will be fun dress-up days and chances to show off your creativity too!

For students in grades K–2 or those not using VR:

You'll still experience our innovative curriculum through your school-issued laptop and engaging online tools. Everything you need to learn, grow, and thrive is at your fingertips.

We truly can't wait to meet you—on screen or in VR—and welcome you into our one-of-a-kind online learning community.

See you soon!

—The Optima Academy Online Team 

Next Steps for Prospective Families	
Ready to Begin Your Journey with OAO?	Not Quite Ready to Apply?
Submit your application today.	Schedule a time with our Admissions team to talk through the process and get your questions answered.
<u>Apply Here</u>	<u>Book Here</u>

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Systems and Equipment Information at Optima

At Optima, we’re committed to providing a top-notch, technology-driven learning experience. Our innovative approach — including VR — enhances engagement and deepens learning.

Systems/Platforms Used

Student Information System (Genius Class+)

Parents and guardians use Genius Class+, our student information system (SIS), to view enrollment details, track progress, and manage student information. It serves as the main hub for overseeing your student’s academic journey.

Canvas

Students log in to Canvas, our learning management system (LMS), to access their coursework, assignments, grades, and messages from teachers. Canvas is where students complete and submit their work and stay connected with their daily learning activities.

Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams is used for live teacher-led lessons. Students do not need a Microsoft account or email to join a session—teachers provide a meeting link, and students simply click to join.

VR Learning with EngageXR

Students begin exploring virtual reality learning through EngageXR in 3rd grade, using a desktop version to get familiar with tools and virtual environments. From 3rd grade and up, students use VR headsets to participate in immersive, interactive lessons designed to bring learning to life.

Additional School Apps

After school begins, teachers will introduce students to supplemental apps and tools that support instruction, classroom communication, and collaboration.

These systems are designed to work together to support academic success, streamline communication, and enhance student engagement. Training and support will be provided to all families during orientation and throughout the school year.

Need Assistance?

If you have questions or need help navigating any of these platforms, please visit our tech help:

[Tech Help Link](#)

Wi-Fi Requirements

For optimal performance, check with your internet provider to ensure you meet the following speeds:

- Download speed: 50 Mbps
- Upload speed: 10 Mbps

Laptop Requirements & Recommendations

Please note that laptops are not provided by the school. Families are responsible for supplying a laptop for their students. Laptop recommendations and requirements are listed below

Laptop Requirement:

- Chromebooks may be used for students in grades K–2. A laptop is required beginning in 3rd grade to run the EngageXR app for VR use.

Recommended Specifications:

- 15” display
- AMD Ryzen 5 / Intel i5 processor
- AMD, Nvidia, or Intel graphics card
- 720p or higher webcam
- Wi-Fi 6 or higher
- 16GB memory
- 256GB storage or higher
- Windows 11

Recommended Laptop Links:

[Laptop Option 1](#)

[Laptop Option 2](#)

[Laptop Option 3](#)

VR Headset Information

Headset Requirement:

- Required for students in Grades 3 and up
- Headsets are provided by the school and loaned to the student while enrolled.
- Must be school issued for security, functionality, and compatibility
- Personal headsets can be used outside school hours but not for coursework

Headset Information:

- Headsets are provided
- New students will receive a headset request form to verify their shipping address.
- If a student unenrolls or withdraws, the headset must be returned.

Getting Started with your Equipment

Engage: Our VR Platform

Access on a Desktop Computer:

1. Ensure that your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements to run Engage.
2. Download the Engage App onto your computer here and install it.
3. Log in with your Engage credentials. Remember to check the “Remember Me” checkbox to save your login information.

Access on a Meta Quest VR Headset Managed by Optima Academy Online:

1. Ensure your headset is connected to Wi-Fi. If you encounter Wi-Fi issues, double check your login information for the Wi-Fi, move closer to your router, and try again.
2. Open the Engage app on your VR headset.
3. Log in with your Engage credentials. If not saved, remember to click the “Remember Me” checkbox.

VR Headset and Engage Credentials:

If you haven't received your child(ren)'s Engage credentials or are still awaiting your VR headset, please email the Helpdesk at support@optimaed.com. Be sure to mention your specific issue: whether you have not received your Engage credentials or you have not received your VR headset from us.

Recommended Care of Equipment:

To ensure your VR headset remains in optimal condition, we recommend:

- Avoid exposing it to extreme temperatures.
- Do not allow direct sunlight on the headset lenses.
- Store it in a clean, dry place.
- Clean the lenses and exterior gently with a microfiber cloth.
- Use a protective case when not in use.

Canvas: Our Learning Management System

Canvas Access:

1. Visit [Canvas](#).
2. Log in with your Canvas credentials.

For those without Canvas access, please email the Helpdesk at support@optimaed.com. Be sure to mention that you have not received your Canvas credentials.

Support and Guidance

Our team is here to provide support and guidance, ensuring your child(ren) feel prepared for the academic year ahead. Should you have questions, concerns, or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Tech Help Hours:

During the school year, our tech help hours are available Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM Eastern Time [through this link](#).

We look forward to a productive and enriching year ahead.

If you need further assistance, please contact:

- **Helpdesk:** support@optimaed.com