

PAULDING VIRTUAL ACADEMY – HIGH SCHOOL



**PVA – High School
Parent & Student Handbook
July 2023**

Paulding Virtual Academy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	2
District Calendar	3
Program Summary	4
Academic Progress	5
High School Grading Scale Information	5
Grades – Course - Placement	6
Withdrawal Criteria	6
General Attendance and Tardiness Rules	6
Internet/Equipment and Electronic Network Usage	7
Financial Obligations	7
Policies and Information	8
Student Discipline	8
Standards for Student Behavior	8
Behavioral Expectations	9
Progressive Discipline Processes	9
Parental Involvement and Expectations	9
Authority of the School Administration	10
Sports - Clubs – Extracurricular	10
PVA Participation Criteria	10
Program Details and Daily Schedule	11
Course Listing	12
Application Process	13
Program Model	13
Statement Of Plagiarism	14
Frequently Asked Questions	15

Paulding Virtual Academy

DISTRICT CALENDAR



Paulding County School District

July 2023- June 2024

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

24-31 – Pre-planning

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1-2 Holiday/School Closed
3 - Teacher Workday
4 – First Day Second Semester
12 – Digital Learning Day (DLD)
15 – MLK Holiday

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

1 – First Day of School
4 – Digital Learning Day (DLD)

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

19-23 – Winter Break

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1 – Digital Learning Day (DLD)
4 – Labor Day
25-29 - Fall Break

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

8 – Digital Learning Day (DLD)
11-12 – Parent Conferences

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

6 – Digital Learning Day (DLD)
9-10 – Parent Conferences

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1-5 – Spring Break

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

7 – Digital Learning Day (DLD)
20-24 – Thanksgiving Break

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

22 – Two Hour Early Release
23-24 – Post Planning

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

19 – Two Hour Early Release
20-Holiday Break Begins

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

 Holiday/ Schools Closed	 Two Hour Early Release/Conferences
 Teacher Workday	 Two Hour Early Release
 Digital Learning Day/ Teacher PL	

Paulding Virtual Academy

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Paulding Virtual Academy (PVA) option was created in direct response to the feedback we received from parents/guardians. The PCSD offers a 100% virtual online school. The academic expectations and rigor mirrors face-to-face instruction, and virtual students will have a full school day Monday through Friday. Students will be required to participate in virtual class sessions and utilize an online platform for their daily/weekly assignments and submission of completed work.

Over the past seven years, PCSD has operated a successful online program under the name of Paulding Virtual Academy. The original blended program with students attending NHEC and working from home was by application only and had a limited number of students. PVA has compiled a successful track record of working with students in grades 6 - 12. The lessons and best practices at PVA have been expanded to provide students at the districted schools a similar experience. The changes in PVA for high school enable students in grades 9 - 12 to work from home. Student enrollment in the high school online program is conditionally based on the students' appropriate attendance in the program and continued satisfactory academic progress.

Prior to each school year through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, an online registration form will be issued to parents/guardians during an announced window of time. Parents/guardians must register students for PVA during the window to allow schools, teachers, and the district to plan appropriately for the following school year. Please note that parents selecting PVA for their student during the window are committing to virtual instruction for a full school year.

The Paulding Virtual Academy will operate according to the following:

- A completely online program facilitated by Paulding County School District teachers.
- Live video conferencing and online classes to be completed at home.
- Opportunities for participation in live tutoring and supportive instruction.
- Access to supportive instruction such as ESOL, ESEP, etc.
- Encouragement and monitoring to complete assignments as scheduled.
- Parent/teacher communication regarding each student's progress
- Student grading that is consistent with the Paulding County School District's grading policies. Students/Parents will be able to utilize the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to view and monitor student academic progress.
- The ability to participate in home high school (your normal districted high school) activities which may include clubs, sports programs, proms, graduation, and other after school activities.
- Pacing Guides outlining the class requirements due each week.

Paulding Virtual Academy requirements:

- Enrollment in the program for a **minimum of one school year**.
- **A GPA of 2.5 is recommended but not required**
- Internet access and appropriate technology device per student enrolled in PVA
- Parent/Guardian Commitment: Must ensure that students are online in their courses and attending each live video conferencing session, behaving appropriately, and completing independent work.
- Daily Schedule Commitment: PVA students are **required** to login each day. Live sessions are recorded. Students who are failing a class **MUST** attend live lessons until they are passing that class. All 9th grade students are **required** to attend all live lessons unless they have a valid school excuse.
- **REQUIRED**: Updated phone numbers and e-mail addresses in IC, a working Parent Portal account, and a working paired Canvas account

Paulding Virtual Academy

Paulding Virtual Academy student responsibilities:

- Login and participate in all live instruction.
- Fulfill daily/weekly pacing guide expectations.
- Communicate with teachers through e-mail and video conferences.
- Participate in activities as required by the districted school and PCSD.
- Some courses require students to be on a PCSD campus for proctored assessments

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students should work on all classes daily to maintain an acceptable pace as required by each course pacing guide. Assignments will be posted in Canvas by the virtual instructor, and students should plan to spend 4-5 hours of academic work each day.

Students should regularly communicate with the virtual instructors regarding student progress and check Canvas for both assignments and student progress. Parents should regularly check their Parent Portal account to help monitor work that is being submitted by their student

Students may accelerate progress in their coursework based upon their academic ability to do so.

Students who do not meet academic expectations will receive a letter from administration and be placed on Academic Probation. Students who do not respond to this probation will be subject to administrative action

HIGH SCHOOL GRADING SCALE INFORMATION

Numerical Grading Scale

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70–79

F=0-69

Honors Weighting on Numerical Grade Point Average

Additional numeric points are added to a student's grades who take Advanced Placement courses and International Baccalaureate and earn a 70 or higher. The additional 10 points is recorded as part of the weighted numerical average on the student's transcript for each course successfully completed.

Additional numeric points are added to a student's grades who take Honors courses and earn a 70 or higher. The additional 5 points is recorded as part of the weighted numerical average on the student's transcript for each course successfully completed.

Effective July 1, 2014, students who entered 9th grade during August 2011, and for any subsequent year, 10 additional numeric points are added to the grade of any successfully completed Dual Enrollment core course. Core courses include English, math, science, social studies, and/or world language courses. The additional 10 points are recorded as part of the weighted numerical average as converted and recorded on the transcript

Paulding Virtual Academy

GRADES – COURSE - PLACEMENT

Student grades and course placements are based upon the time of enrollment into PVA. The academic expectation is for students to complete all course work within the allotted semester.

PVA will offer a full suite of online classes to support student on time graduation. The school counselor will discuss with students and families the best course load based upon each student's individual needs.

WITHDRAWAL CRITERIA

PVA is considered a virtual school choice option; therefore, enrollment may be revoked based on a variety of reasons. Appropriate school personnel are authorized to withdraw a student who:

1. Has excessive absences:
 - a. Accumulates 10 unexcused absences per semester.
 - b. Absences include failing to log on to courses daily.
2. Fails to maintain appropriate pace and academic progress:
 - a. Pace: Each student receives a pacing guide for every course that they take at PVA. Each pacing guide lists the assignments students are required to complete each week.
 - b. Academic Progress: This refers to the student's current class average at any given time. Any assignment listed on the pacing guide that is not completed for the appropriate week will be entered into Infinite Campus as a 0%. However, students can still complete these 0% assignments through the end of each semester.
3. Student or supervising parent/guardian continually behaves in an inappropriate or disruptive manner during live class sessions and/or infringes upon the rights and privileges of other students participating in the class. This includes, but is not limited to, frequently interrupting classroom instruction, the use of profanity or coarse language, disrespectful behavior/comments, and inappropriate exposure.
4. The superintendent or superintendent's designee has determined the student is no longer a resident of the local school system or is enrolled in a private school or home study program.
5. Other just causes.

GENERAL ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS RULES

1. Excessive absences have a significant impact on students' academic performance. The PCSD shall comply with all requirements of state law, State Board of Education rules, and the Student Attendance Protocol that has been developed by the Student Attendance Protocol Committee. **Board Policy JB.** Attendance will be reported and maintained in Infinite Campus, and parents may monitor their student's attendance in Parent Portal.
2. Students who do not participate in each course daily will be considered absent. Students who do not attend live lessons for classes they are failing will be considered absent. Ninth grade students must attend all live lessons whether they are passing or failing.

Paulding Virtual Academy

3. Students that visit the physical school building (the home high school) for completion of specific tasks must be checked in and out through the school office.
4. Students who visit the physical school building (where the virtual teacher is housed or other specified location) for completion of specific academic or counselor tasks must be checked in/out through the school office. All visits to the physical school building must be approved either by the virtual teacher or by local school administration **no less than 24-hours in advance**. Unapproved/drop-in visitation and non-academic visitation are prohibited.
5. Teachers will manage the first three absences/tardies to class. On the fourth absent or tardy event the student is to be referred to an administrator.

INTERNET/EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRONIC NETWORK USAGE

PVA students have 24/7 access to the curriculum. Please note:

1. Students are offered the opportunity to enhance their education using the internet and other electronic networks. There is no right to privacy as it relates to information accessed, developed, or used on Paulding County School District computers, networks, and the internet. Paulding County School District employees may monitor or access information from computer workstations at any time. Paulding County School District does not provide electronic mail, off campus internet access, or equipment to students.
2. Paulding County School District takes precautions to prevent access to materials that may be defamatory, inaccurate, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate in the education center setting. On an unregulated network however, it is impossible to control all material, and a user may discover inappropriate material. Ultimately, the parent/guardian is responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their student should follow, as the parent/guardian is legally responsible for his/her student's actions. Paulding County School District supports and respects each family's right to decide to authorize unsupervised access to the Paulding County School District education center's electronic networks. Any violation of the terms and conditions, outlined on the internet and electronic network usage form, will result in immediate revoking of internet and electronic network privileges and may result in termination from the program.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

There is no charge to participate in Paulding Virtual Academy. **Please note, all prospective Paulding Virtual Academy students must confirm access to their own device and internet connection during school hours before enrollment in the program.** Additionally, students need the ability to print handouts and need access to general school supplies.

Materials, equipment, internet access, or any support that students receive from the school system, are issued to students as borrowed property; consequently, students will be held responsible for damage and/or loss of items issued to them. Any financial obligations must be settled before a student can withdraw, graduate, receive grade reports (including final transcripts), student records, or diplomas. Please note, all prospective PVA students must confirm access to their own computer and internet connection during school hours before enrollment in the program.

Paulding Virtual Academy

POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Students participating in PVA are subject to the rules, regulations, and behavioral expectations of the Paulding County School District as defined by Paulding County School District's Board Policy. All students are expected to adhere to both Board Policy and local program rules. These policies and rules will serve as guidelines and are subject to administrative discretion when appropriate.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Parents/guardians and students are asked to sign a form acknowledging their receipt of the Student Code of Conduct. The Student Discipline Codes of Conduct for Elementary, Middle, and High School Students are contained in Regulation JD-R (2) and JD-R (3). The information regarding rules and regulations of this policy are contained in Regulations JD-R (0), JD-R (1), JD-R (2) and JD-R (3).

It is the intention of the Paulding County School District to establish standards for behavior that expect students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within the district.

PVA's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the code of conduct, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole.

Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in the Paulding County School District Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places:

1. At school, on school property, or at school sponsored events at any time
2. Off school grounds at any school activity, function, or event and while traveling to and from such events
3. On vehicles provided for student transportation by the school system and at school bus stops.
4. During live sessions online with your PVA classes

Students may be disciplined for conduct off campus which is felonious, or which may pose a threat to the school's learning environment or the safety of students and employees.

Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the Code of Conduct and to be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

As required by the Georgia General Assembly, parents and guardians are encouraged to inform their children on the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

STANDARDS FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Standards for student behavior are designed to create the expectation that students will behave themselves in such a way to facilitate a positive learning environment. The standards are designed to encourage students to respect each other and school district employees, to motivate students to follow student behavior policies adopted by the BOE, and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within this school district.

Paulding Virtual Academy

Behavioral Expectations

1. Demonstrate courtesy with all individuals regardless of circumstances.
2. Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
3. Actively engage in live video lessons and avoid any behavior that may be distracting to other learners
4. Demonstrate positive Digital Citizenship and Safety behaviors
5. Prepare for each class by bringing appropriate materials for online and individual work
6. Meet the Paulding County School District student dress code when on video conferencing or when physically on campus.
7. Respect the rights and privileges of all students, teachers, and employees of PCSD.
8. Respect the property of others, including Paulding County School District property and facilities.
9. Refrain from committing violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCESSES

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by corrective consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the character traits from Georgia's Character Education Program.

Due to the nature of the PVA's format, disciplinary options are limited to conferences, and denial of access to school district properties including software.

1. First infraction
 - Parent and student notification/warning, documented parent/teacher/student conference prior to, denial of access (3 days)
2. Second infraction
 - Parent and student notification, parent meeting prior to continuation, denial of access (5 days)
3. Third infraction
 - Parent and student notification, parent meeting prior to continuation, denial of access (10 days)
4. Fourth infraction
 - Removal from PVA and return to the districted public school

Level 3 discipline offenses are serious acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, repeated misbehaviors of a similar nature, serious disruptions of the virtual school environment, threats to health, safety or property and other acts of serious misconduct. Any such misconduct may result in the immediate suspension of the student from the school and/or school-sponsored activities for up to ten (10) school days pending disciplinary investigation of allegations.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND EXPECTATIONS

Parents are encouraged to monitor their student's progress regularly by checking Canvas along with regularly checking Parent Portal.

Parents/guardians must be available for conferences, meetings, or phone calls with teachers and administrators as requested. For technology support or questions about a student's academic

Paulding Virtual Academy

progress, parents/guardians should communicate with teachers via email or telephone outside of the live, virtual sessions.

Parents are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior. Parents should avoid disruptive adult behaviors during live conferencing sessions that would disrupt the educational process.

AUTHORITY OF THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The director/principal may undertake the corrective measure or measures that are determined to be in the best interest of the student and the virtual school, including student withdrawal, denial of access, adjustments to a student's schedule, adjustments to the building schedule, and course offerings provided any such action does not violate school board policy.

SPORTS - CLUBS – EXTRACURRICULAR

- Students will maintain all eligibility requirements established at the time of enrollment into PVA.
- Students initially enrolling with PCSD and enrolling into PVA will have an eligibility status of their districted home school.
- Students may not change eligibility once enrolled into PVA.
- Students will be permitted and are encouraged to interact with schools in the district for the following activities: All sports and sporting events, Band, Clubs, Booster activities, Proms, other dances, graduation.
- Please note that there may be limitations for participation in clubs/extracurricular activities contingent upon the individual expectations of each local school program.

PVA PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

Student and enrolling Parent/Guardian must reside within the borders of the Paulding Count School District and must apply during the open registration window.

Paulding Virtual Academy

PROGRAM DETAILS AND DAILY SCHEDULE

- All Paulding County School District students in grades 9 - 12 are eligible to apply for admission into the PVA program during the open registration window.
- Students not currently enrolled in the PCSD, but living in Paulding County, will be allowed to apply for admission through Central Registration and will be enrolled by their districted home school counselor.
- PVA instruction will be a combination of live video conferencing lessons, online resources, and opportunities for tutoring.
- PVA teachers will be available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 AM and 3 PM for student support and live video instruction. PVA teachers will determine the daily instructional schedules for their courses in accordance with district and local school guidance.
- Students will have 24/7 access to the Learning Management Systems and course content.
- PVA students will have 4 academic courses each semester (except for seniors qualifying for minimum day)
- Regular opportunities for parent/teacher communication and requests for tutoring - provided the request can be scheduled between the hours of 8 AM to 3 PM.
- Students will be encouraged to progress through the coursework at their own pace but must meet minimum pacing standards as listed in the pacing guides. Students may have the opportunity to accelerate their academic progress through demonstrated performance and approval.
- All students taking classes through PVA will be required to take any state or district mandated assessments.
- PVA students may pursue opportunities available to them through Dual Enrollment and Work-Based Learning.
- Students will be offered opportunities to connect with college and career partners while taking classes at PVA in order to develop connections they will need after they complete high school.

High School Schedule	Monday - Friday
8:55 – 10:15	1st Block
10:20 – 11:20	2nd Block
11:20 – 12:20	Lunch
12:20 - 1:30	3rd Block
1:35 – 2:45	4 th Block
2:45 – 3:30	During any unscheduled time and on any given day, the following could occur: Small Groups, Individual Work, Tutoring, Counseling Sessions, Parent Contacts, Student Conferences

Paulding Virtual Academy

COURSE LISTING

PVA Tentative Course Schedule 2023-2024

All course availability is subject to change

English Tentative

Advanced Comp
British Lit
H. British Lit
American Lit
H. American Lit
World Lit
H. World Lit
Ninth Lit
H. Ninth Lit
Mythology
Writer's Workshop
Journalism
Oral/Written Communication (Speech)

Math Tentative

AMDM
Statistical Reasoning
Pre-Calculus
H. Pre
Technical College Readiness
Algebra II
H. Algebra II
Geometry
H. Geometry
Algebra I
H. Algebra I
Foundations of Algebra
SAT Prep

AP Courses

All AP courses are on Georgia Virtual School

Science Tentative

Anatomy and Physiology
Forensic Science
Earth Systems
Environmental Science
Physics
H. Physics
Chemistry
H. Chemistry
Physical Science
Biology
H. Biology

Social Studies Tentative

Economics
H. Economics
Government
H. Government
US History
H. US History
World History
H. World History
World Geography
H. World Geography
Humanities
Psychology
Sociology
Anthropology

CTAE Tentative

Basic Ag
Intro to Business
Financial Literacy
Banking, Investing, and Insurance
Business and Technology
Marketing Principles
Audio & Video Technology Film I
Intro to Digital Tech
Digital Design
Web Design
Exam Teaching Prof
Food, Nutrition, Wellness
Food for Life
Intro to Healthcare
Essentials of Healthcare
Intro to Law

General Electives Proposed

Study Skills I
Study Skills II
Study Skills III

Health
Personal Fitness
General PE

Communication Skills 23.081000
Reading Enrichment 23.082000

World Language Proposed

French I
French II
Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III

Fine Arts Proposed

Visual Arts/Comp 1

Paulding Virtual Academy

APPLICATION PROCESS

Parents/guardians interested in enrolling their student in PVA must complete an online application in Infinite Campus Parent Portal during the open registration window prior to each school year. After the registration window has closed, the parent/guardian will be contacted regarding admission status. Parents/guardians are required to re-apply for PVA prior to each school year.

PROGRAM MODEL

PVA is designed to utilize current technology, live virtual instruction, online resources/software, and teacher support.

Students are expected to maintain 100% attendance while in PVA as measured by daily course logins to each course. Students are granted off site access to the curriculum but are not able to access live instruction outside of the scheduled sessions. Live instructional lessons are recorded and placed within the Canvas course. Pace and academic progress are monitored by the virtual teacher. Students who do not progress adequately in both their pace and their academic progress may be removed from PVA and returned to the face-to-face learning experience to improve academic outcomes.

The following supports will be offered:

- a. Direct video-based support and instruction
- b. Access to web conferencing and tutoring
- c. Differentiated instruction
- d. Full access to internet-based services and software

Students should:

- a. Be able to remain on pace and pass all classes
- b. Have access to adequate technology and internet access from home
- c. Have the ability to communicate via e-mail and video conferencing
- d. Attend scheduled video conferencing sessions

Please note that online learning requires a highly motivated student with good home support. Parents/guardians should plan to regularly monitor their child's progress and participation. It is recommended that parents/guardians provide a quiet learning environment with limited distractions and continually monitor their child's engagement and on-task behavior.

Virtual students will attend their districted high school when taking a local, district, and/or state assessment. The number and frequency of assessments depends on the course. PVA parents/guardians are responsible for transportation to/from the physical locations.

Definition of Plagiarism:

Plagiarism in an academic setting occurs when a student uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common knowledge) material without crediting the original author. There are two types of plagiarism:

- **Deliberate Plagiarism:** The most serious offense, involves a deliberate attempt on the part of a student to pass off as his own the writing or ideas of another person (student, parent, published or unpublished author, et al). Straight copying or slight paraphrasing of a source that the student attempts to conceal.
- **Unintentional Plagiarism:** Carelessly or inadequately citing ideas and words borrowed from another source.

Both types of plagiarism are serious violations of the principles of academic integrity. The parents/guardians of students should support their child's efforts through monitoring and guidance; however, parents/guardians should avoid giving their child answers, completing assignments for their child, typing written responses for their child, overly editing the writing of their child, or otherwise doing anything that falsifies the child's mastery of the standards.

Penalties for Plagiarism:

- A student who has unintentionally plagiarized will not receive a grade until citation errors are corrected. Should a student fail to resubmit the paper with corrections within five school days, he will receive a grade of zero. A pattern of documentation error will be considered as intentional.
- A student who intentionally plagiarizes will receive zero credit for the assignment and will be subject to a disciplinary referral. Recovery will not be given.
- A student who allows another student to copy his or her paper or assists in the act of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary action.
- A student who allows someone else to complete his/her virtual assignments or assessments will be subject to disciplinary action and may be dismissed from PVA.

Paulding Virtual Academy

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the program called?

Paulding Virtual Academy (PVA)

2. Why did the district decide to develop PVA?

PCSD recognizes the changing educational landscape and the increasing use of technology to supplement and/or provide education. The district also recognizes that student learning styles vary and that the brick and mortar style of education may not maximize the potential of all students. Some students may wish to accelerate academics and participate in dual enrollment. Other students may find the regular school building overwhelming and thereby find it difficult to focus. PVA is designed to serve all students from the most academically challenged student to the scholar.

3. Will there be certified teachers in the program?

PCSD will be staffing virtual learning with certified teachers from across the district

4. How many students can participate in the program?

Program capacity will be determined after the close of the application window.

5. Can homeschool students participate in the program?

Homeschool students should register as a student of the Paulding County School District to participate in PVA. Students will then be considered students of their districted school for all extra-curricular activities. New students to Paulding who register after the PVA registration window has closed will need to apply for hardship into PVA.

6. Will transportation be provided?

Transportation will not be provided.

7. Can students also be in the dual enrollment program?

Dual enrollment is a major component of the PVA program. All students will be strongly encouraged and guided towards participation in dual enrollment.

8. Can students participate in all activities at their home school?

Yes, in fact it is encouraged. Students who participate in PVA are considered full members of their districted school and may participate in all clubs, sports, proms, and special events at the districted school. Please note that students maintain the eligibility at the districted school they have at the time of enrollment into PVA. For example, a student that is districted for Hiram High School cannot play for East Paulding High School. The student must play for Hiram High School. Student eligibility remains as it was when the student enters PVA.

9. Do students maintain athletic eligibility?

Yes, all eligibility remains intact.

10. How do parents/guardians enroll their student(s)?

Complete the online enrollment located in Infinite Campus Parent Portal during the registration window.

11. Can students apply after the registration window closes?

PCSD students who apply after the registration window will need to establish a documented hardship and program space must be available in the requested grade-level/course. The hardship request stating the reasons for hardship and supporting documentation should be submitted to Marie Sellers at msellers@paulding.k12.ga.us. Please note, academic difficulty and teacher preference are not considered hardships

12. Can students withdraw from PVA and return to their districted school in person?

Yes, but transfers from PVA to the districted school will occur only at the end of each school year.

Paulding Virtual Academy

13. When are students committed to attending PVA and unable to return to their districted school?

The registration window opens in March and the Opt-Out window is in May. Students are committed to PVA at the close of the Opt-Out window.

14. Can students take classes at both PVA and the districted school?

Co-curricular classes are permitted (Band, Chorus, CTAE). Other coursework is completed through PVA.

15. Will students be able to take CTAE classes and elective classes? Yes, view the course listing in this handbook.

16. Are the full range of core courses that are required for graduation offered at PVA?

Yes, we utilize a number of online resources and dual enrollment programs to provide the full range of courses required for graduation.

17. Are the courses NCAA approved regarding athletic scholarships?

Yes.

18. How often must the students physically attend PVA or their districted high school?

Students are required to attend for proctored assessments and counselor tasks.

19. How often must the students physically attend PVA or their districted high school?

Students are required to attend for proctored assessments and counselor tasks.

20. I have a child with an IEP that receives special education services, can my child attend PVA? Yes, as a public school, PVA accepts students with disabilities. Enrollment in PVA is considered a school choice option. Special education services will be provided differently in an online environment. Once a student with a disability has been registered with PVA, the Exceptional Students Education Program (ESEP) coordinator will facilitate an IEP to discuss possible amendments to the student's IEP to reflect acceptance into PVA. We encourage parents to contact the PCSD Student Services Department at 770-443-8030 prior to registering; Student Services can also be reached at: **studentservices@paulding.k12.ga.us**

21. What would be an appropriate device to access the computer software and participate in video conferences?

Equipment: laptops, desktops, tablets, cell phones. Tablets and cellphones work but **can be challenging to navigate compared to larger devices.**

Video Conferencing: Video conferencing works on any internet connected device. If two-way video is desired the internet connected device must have a camera.

22. What supplies will PVA students need?

Most high school courses will require access to basic school supplies and the ability to print handouts.

23. What are the times during the day that a student must attend?

Students receive individualized scheduling at PVA. All 9th grade students are expected to attend all live lessons each day. Tenth through twelfth grade students must attend live lessons for courses they are failing, or they will be considered absent that day.

24. Do I need to have internet for my student to enroll?

Yes, it is requirement of the program that parents provide internet for their PVA students.