



Back to School

2022-2023 School Year

Welcome
Back!

July 27, 2022

Dear Paulding County School District Families,

Welcome back to the start of another great school year! I hope everyone had a terrific summer break. It is a great time to be part of the Paulding County School District as our schools, our students, and our staff continue to excel in so many ways. This year our enrollment will approach 32,000 students in 33 schools, and this fall we will break ground on our 34th school – a new middle school on Seven Hills Boulevard. We are fortunate to be part of a growing community that truly values education and loves its schools.

I hope you are as excited as I am to get the new year under way. As we head into the 2022-2023 school year, here are a few pieces of important information all our families need to know:

AUGUST 5th DLD

As a reminder, August 5th is a Digital Learning Day (DLD), which means that all PCSD students will learn remotely. Please be sure to make appropriate arrangements.

STAY CONNECTED

The last page of this letter is our PCSD Parent Connections guide. It tells you how you can stay in touch with all that's happening in your schools and the school district. Local schools and the school district often send out important notifications, sometimes involving safety issues, and it is critical that all households provide current contact information in the Infinite Campus database so that we can reach you if needed.

A great way to keep up with school and district activities is through the PCSD mobile app. Available in your phone's app store in Apple and Android formats, the app allows you to follow the latest news and important notifications from your local schools and the school district. I encourage everyone to download the PCSD mobile app to their phone.

PARENT-STUDENT INFORMATION GUIDE

The district's Parent-Student Information Guide contains important information about school policies and procedures. Each household is required to acknowledge receipt of this guide, and we encourage every parent to read it carefully and share key information with their students, especially as it relates to the Student Code of Conduct.

This year, the Parent-Student Information Guide has moved to an online format. Each household must sign-off on receipt of the Parent-Student Information guide, and parents will see instructions for this process when they log into the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. It is vital that each household completes this step by the end of the first week of school.



COVID-19

Our COVID-19 Operations Opening Plan of last year remains in place for the upcoming school year. We are opening the new school year in Green Operating Status, which means that all schools will operate normally with COVID-19 best practices in place and elevated mitigations on standby. Please reference the COVID-19 [page of our website](#) for the opening plan and quarantine protocols for isolation and monitoring guidelines should your child be exposed to COVID-19, test positive, or show symptoms. We will continue to send notification letters to parents reporting positive cases within the schools so that you may monitor your children for symptoms. We ask that you continue to help contain the spread of COVID-19 by keeping children with symptoms at home.

SCHOOL SAFETY

The school district has taken significant steps to enhance safety and security throughout our schools. Among other initiatives, this year we are in the process of hiring a full-time trained security guard at every school, in addition to our School Resource Officers (SROs) provided through the Paulding County Sheriff's Office and internal P.O.S.T. certified Security Officers which we have increased by three positions. Additionally, the district has created new bus monitor positions to help ensure morning and afternoon bus rides remain safe and orderly.

At PCSD, we are very serious about school safety and recognize it is a changing landscape. That is why this year we are also introducing a team of School Security Advisors who will provide a new focus on school campuses emphasizing awareness of student safety, health, and well-being. They are part of an effort that includes training our School Resource Officers and school personnel to recognize and connect with individual students' circumstances and emotional/mental health needs. These Advisors will supplement and add a security emphasis to the school counselors, social workers, and social/emotional programs and resources already in place. Additionally, our schools are committed to eliminating bullying through our Just Keep Peace bullying prevention program, along with an anonymous tip line and intervention resources that assist that effort.

At each school, implementation and management of these safety initiatives will fall under the purview of an appointed and trained Safety Coordinator. At PCSD, we have adopted a comprehensive approach to student health and safety, and a key component of that is identifying and addressing potential issues as early as possible.

TRANSPORTATION

This year we will return to a normal high school schedule, meaning there will not be a weekly high school Digital Learning Day (DLD). As always, please visit our website for information on bus stops and school locations. We also encourage you to utilize the Here Comes the Bus app, which is an easy-to-use website and app that enables parents to see the location of their child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Of course, a huge part of our schools' success is your support. Throughout our community there are many businesses and organizations that lend their support, both financial and in-kind, to help our schools reach their goals each year. Our Partners in Education program coordinates those school-community relationships, so if your business is interested in getting involved, please visit our [Partners in Education website](#) for more information.



OPEN HOUSES

Each PCSD school will host an Open House on July 28th to give students and their families an opportunity to meet teachers and administrators, visit classrooms, and pick up important information. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend their local school Open House, so be sure to click here for [Open House times](#).

(Allgood Elementary School families should refer to recent communications regarding a change to their Open House schedule)

I want to thank you for your attention to these issues, and for all that you do to support Paulding County schools. Remember that if you ever have any questions, your school administration is here to help and will be glad to assist you. I hope that you and your students have a fantastic school year!

Sincerely,

Steve Barnette
Superintendent



PCSD PARENT CONNECTIONS

Important tools to help you stay connected to your child's education in the Paulding County School District



Download the App

The PCSD App is the best way to keep track of activity at your school(s) and around the school district. Go to your phone's App Store and download the Paulding County Schools app. Then, in the Activity Stream, select the gear icon to choose your school(s) along with Paulding County SD.



District Web Site

www.paulding.k12.ga.us



Infinite Campus & Parent Portal

Infinite Campus Parent Portal is a tool for parents and students to remain up-to-date with, and connected with, their students' educational and academic progress. All PCSD parents/guardians should have a Parent Portal account. Additionally, keeping contact information up-to-date in Infinite Campus ensures parents and guardians will receive important district communications. Visit here for information on setting up a Parent Portal account: <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/domain/4142>



Canvas

Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) that connects teachers, students and parents/guardians. PCSD teachers and students use Canvas for classroom applications, virtual learning, and learning remotely during planned and unplanned Digital Learning Days. Parents/guardians are encouraged to create an "Observer" account to monitor their student's educational progress. Visit here for more information: <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/28792>



Here Comes The Bus

- View the real-time location of your child's bus
- Access the app from your smartphone, tablet, or computer
- Receive push notifications or email alerts
- Supports multiple students in the same household on the same account

How to get started:

1. Download the *Here Comes the Bus* app* on your cell phone.
2. Sign up here: herecomesthebus.com
3. Enter school code **85952** and click "Next" followed by "Confirm"
4. Complete the "User Profile" box
5. Under "My Students," click "Add." Enter your child's last name and student ID number
6. Once you confirm your information, you are ready to begin using *Here Comes the Bus*!



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YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/c/pauldingcountyschooldistrict>