**Dobbins Middle School 2020-2021 School Year Frequently Asked Questions**

Dobbins (and Paulding County) families had the option to choose virtual school through the Paulding Virtual Academy or Face to Face school at Dobbins Middle School to begin this school year. Below we hope to answer some of the frequently asked questions about both options.

Please remember that while the answers below are current as of today – they are subject to change based on guidance from the CDC and the Department of Public Health (DPH). We will communicate changes as they occur and the impact they may have on your students. We appreciate your patience and your flexibility as we are all navigating this new back to school experience.

Traditional Face to Face School @  Dobbins Middle School

• When does school start?

School begins Monday, August 3, 2020, at 8:45 am. Students will report to their Homeroom first thing in the morning, upon arrival at school.

• Visitors to DMS

Anyone who visits DMS is strongly encouraged to wear a mask.  On the first day of school- parents will not be able to walk students to classrooms.  To limit in-person visits, we cannot host parents/visitors/volunteers to classrooms or the cafeteria at this time. Please contact teachers or grade admin for phone or virtual conferences.

• Are masks required on the bus or in the school?

The school district is highly encouraging masks but is not requiring them. We would like to highly encourage our students, staff and anyone entering the DMS building to please wear a mask for everyone’s safety. We want to keep our school building open and operating to the fullest extent possible and we believe wearing masks will help with this goal.

• School Supplies

We ask that parents be prepared to send students to school with their own school supplies (i.e. pencils, paper, binders, etc.), facial coverings, and hand sanitizer. Please refer to the grade level supply lists for all needed supplies. Students are asked to bring a water bottle to school for use during the day.  Water fountains will be used to refill water bottles only.  Students will not be able to drink from water fountains. The school has added hand sanitizer stations on each hallway and will ensure we always have soap in our bathrooms.

• How will classrooms be set up?

Classrooms will be set up based on the most up to date information from the DPH and CDC. Desks will be spaced as much as possible within the confines of the classroom space given.

• How many students will be in each class?

We cannot determine the number of students in each class at this time. As we make the shift with the students who have chosen virtual as well as the staff changes for those who will be teaching the virtual classes, class numbers will shift throughout the first ten days of school.

• When students arrive at school, what is the procedure?

Students should NOT arrive at school prior to 8:15 am. The doors will not be open for student entrance until 7:50 am. Students arriving between 7:50 am and 8:15 am will report to the cafeteria. After 8:15 am, students will be able to get their breakfast from the cafeteria and report to Homeroom. There will be NO congregating in the hallways or the cafeteria.

• How will class changes look?

Students will not be allowed to congregate in the hallways during class changes. They will be directed to move to their next class immediately. All traffic in the hallways will need to keep moving. Staff members will be in the hallway to help facilitate student movement to their next classes. Students should maintain their traffic patterns to a specific side of the hallway – much like when driving on the roads. We will go over this in detail with students when they arrive on campus.

• What will lunch look like?

At this time, students will be brought to the cafeteria by their lunch period teacher.  The cafeteria and classrooms will be utilized for all students to eat lunch. This will prevent large groups congregating at one time at one location inside the building.

• Will lockers be used?

At this time, lockers will not be issued to any grade level students.

• How will PE look?

DMS students will not start the year dressing out for PE.  Students will not be using the PE locker rooms.

• How will dismissal take place?

Dismissal will take place in stages. We are working through this process as we cannot release the entire building at the same time currently. Students will need to pay attention to the announcements and grade levels will be dismissed by car riders and bus riders. There will not be any student congregating allowed in the hallways.

• What kinds of training will the custodians, faculty, and staff go through pertaining to cleaning, social distancing, and other COIVD protocols?

Appropriate and thorough training is essential for stopping the spread of COVID. Custodians will attend a specific training on how to keep our schools clean through our contracted cleaning company, SMS. Our cleaning staff is also frequently trained to recognize the symptoms of COVID, along with other potential contaminants.

Our DMS faculty and staff will also undergo a through training on the CDC guidelines for stopping the spread of COVID. This training will include what social distancing looks like in our classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, and restrooms. We will also train our faculty and staff what to do if symptoms are present in themselves or with a student.

• What if the school buildings must close again? What happens to my student’s education?

If the Paulding County School District makes the decision to close the school district buildings, all students will move to a virtual model with their current in-building teachers. It will be similar to last spring; however, it will be more in-depth and streamlined as we have had time to prepare for this over the summer. Grades WILL count and students will be expected to log in and participate throughout the length of the virtual learning process.

• How can families help?

We ask that parents remain flexible with us. Information is ever-changing and we are working as fast as we can to ensure we continue to offer our students the best education while making sure our students are safe.

Students who are sick or have temperatures should stay home. Please help by screening your child at home before sending them to school. DPH Guidance:

* [Quarantine Guidance: What to do if you were exposed to someone with COVID-19](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdph.georgia.gov%2Fdocument%2Fdocument%2Fquarantine-guidance-what-do-if-you-were-exposed-someone-novel-coronavirus-covid%2Fdownload&data=02%7C01%7CBStrickland%40paulding.k12.ga.us%7Ce4d16bc0a8d4424e78e608d82b4139cc%7C0a4d13eb5a664a7092f1392d6edba3aa%7C0%7C0%7C637306906420038272&sdata=hVMymjkIL5xxTQDXMOzhJvnJKfLEET0LKg4yq9duQZA%3D&reserved=0)
* [Isolation Guidance: What to do if you are sick with COVID-19](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdph.georgia.gov%2Fdocument%2Fdocument%2Fisolation-guidance-what-do-if-you-are-sick-covid-19%2Fdownload&data=02%7C01%7CBStrickland%40paulding.k12.ga.us%7Ce4d16bc0a8d4424e78e608d82b4139cc%7C0a4d13eb5a664a7092f1392d6edba3aa%7C0%7C0%7C637306906420038272&sdata=hgJcPzv6U9tLrHkdh1vapQo2nPNN46B8hYgD2rIecAI%3D&reserved=0)
* [Return to School Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdph.georgia.gov%2Fdocument%2Fdocument%2Freturn-school-guidance%2Fdownload&data=02%7C01%7CBStrickland%40paulding.k12.ga.us%7Ce4d16bc0a8d4424e78e608d82b4139cc%7C0a4d13eb5a664a7092f1392d6edba3aa%7C0%7C0%7C637306906420048268&sdata=OBzdFv2wDVcho%2BHSW%2BkijqK4x3AG3HIfaMiVYcU6h7E%3D&reserved=0)

DMS Students @ The Paulding Virtual Academy (PVA)

• Who will be teaching my students through PVA?

Students served through PVA will have access to certified Paulding County teachers. There will be DMS teachers who have been shifted to instruct PVA classes to meet the needs for all DMS students at PVA this upcoming semester.

• If I want my student to be in the virtual school, can I still register them?

The registration for PVA closed on July 13, 2020. However, the district has created a waiting list that is date and time stamped. You can add your student’s name to the waitlist at the link below. Please note adding your student to the waitlist DOES NOT guarantee a seat in PVA. <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/PCSDVirtualWaitList>