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Superintendent

April 22, 2020

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PCSD PARENTS & STUDENTS**

Following up on last week’s release of a second semester Grading Plan and a district-wide survey of parents, students and teachers regarding Digital Learning Days and other topics, we are providing the following important updates. All PCSD stakeholders are encouraged to read this information carefully.

**SURVEY**

A district-wide survey was conducted April 13-16 and more than 23,000 parents, students and teachers provided responses. Your input has since been used to develop plans for Digital Learning Days (when to end new content for online instruction), and graduation ceremonies for high school seniors. **Attachment B** provides a summary of results.

**DIGITAL LEARNING**

Based on your input, we will stop delivering new content for instruction on May 8, 2020. Until then, students will continue learning new content online with the understanding that since March 13<sup>th</sup> a student's grade can be raised by digital learning but cannot be lowered.

*Note: High school students taking nine-week Government, Economics, Health or Personal Fitness courses that began March 16<sup>th</sup> should continue to work through instruction. Each school will provide additional guidance regarding course requirements and timelines.*

From May 9-May 22, teachers will continue to provide online digital learning for all students who wish to continue learning, students who need remedial help, students seeking to improve their grades, and students preparing for AP Exams. Please see **Attachment A** for more information about these topics, report cards, and more.

**GRADUATION**

Based on overwhelming parent and student preference, all five high schools will hold in-person, on-site graduation ceremonies at a later date, contingent on government regulations and health-related considerations at the time. The school district is proposing the following graduation schedule:

<b>FRIDAY, JUNE 19</b>	North Paulding HS	Paulding County HS	South Paulding HS
<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 20</b>	East Paulding HS	Hiram HS	

Backup contingency:

<b>FRIDAY, JULY 24</b>	North Paulding HS	Paulding County HS	South Paulding HS
<b>SATURDAY, JULY 25</b>	East Paulding HS	Hiram HS	

Due to anticipated heat concerns for these dates, the Saturday ceremony times may be scheduled in the evening. More information regarding planning and feasibility for these options will be forthcoming from the school district and the high schools.

Also, in the coming days you will receive additional information regarding procedures for picking up items from your school, including yearbooks, locker items, etc. That process will begin after May 11, however, seniors will be able to pick caps and gowns before May 11 and will be contacted by their school when those are available.

Please be sure to read the accompanying materials, and, as always, thank you for your tremendous participation on the district survey and for your continued support as we work together through this challenging time.



Paulding County School District

# Digital Learning Update: EOY Guide

April 21, 2020

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As educators we value learning; and, therefore understand there is great benefit to our students continuing digital learning for the remainder of the year. Based on the input of our staff and families, we will stop delivering new content instruction as of May 8. Therefore, below is important information about instruction, grades, and credits to help support students in being prepared for normal instruction to continue upon our return. Parents and students who have specific questions regarding DLD participation and grades should contact their teacher or school administrator.

## Instruction

Until May 8th, teachers will continue to provide instruction, formative assessment, and feedback for students to master state standards in core and elective content areas. The schedule will follow the DLD guidance as provided for Elementary, Middle and High.

Between May 11-22, teachers will continue to offer support for:

- identified students who need additional instruction
- students who want to complete assignments for grade improvement
- students who want to prepare for AP Tests
- and, students who want to complete optional content to stay engaged with Digital Learning for additional time.

During these last few weeks, we hope to be able to work with individual students regarding mastery of needed instruction to be successful for the next school year. Schools will follow guidelines that were

outlined on April 15th and will be in contact with any student who is significantly behind and discuss the topic of retention.

AP course exams will be administered online May 11-22 by the College Board.

## Grading

On May 15th, teachers will begin to finalize Senior grades and all other grade levels on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Teachers will follow guidance that performance prior to March 13 will be considered.

Report Cards will be finalized and made available through Parent Portal in Infinite Campus after May 29. Parents may request a hard copy report card by contacting their teacher. To set up an Infinite Campus Parent Portal Account, [click here](#).

Georgia Virtual (GAVS), Paulding Virtual Academy (PVA), and on-line student courses will follow PCSD Grading provisions as outlined on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Online students will be required to have completed 50% of their coursework which was March 13th, and their remaining work will benefit the course final average.

## Class Rank, Valedictorian/Salutatorian-Class of 2020

Class Rank is determined by cumulative numerical average earned once final grades are posted at the end of the semester. Regulation IKDB-R outlines Valedictorian and Salutatorian guidelines.

## Summer Learning Opportunities

We continue to monitor health agency guidelines regarding face-to-face interaction and will provide specific instructions for summer programming as well as other questions such as the return and pick up of materials as we are able to do so.

PCSD will hold traditional high school Summer School virtually. Contact your local school counselor for further information on registration and course selection. Information will be posted online in May.

For all students, resources will be made available to continue optional virtual work through the summer in an effort to make sure students are prepared for next grade level.



## PCSD Digital Learning School Year Graduation Survey

### April 2020 Summary of Results

#### PARENTS – 12, 735 responses

##### Digital Learning Feedback

- 98% indicated internet access at home; > 1% indicated not having a device to use for DLD; > 1% indicated borrowing a device
- 69% reported their child is engaging and completing schoolwork 5 days per week and continuing into the weekend; only 2% indicated they were not completing any schoolwork
- 61% reported their child is spending 2-4 hours per day on schoolwork; 17% report 4-5 hours
- 56% felt 1-3 hours of work daily is appropriate, 29% felt 3-5 hours is appropriate
- 79% reported their child has the tools and resources at home to complete work

- 60% agreed or strongly agreed they felt prepared to help their child with schoolwork
- Lack of time due to other responsibilities was cited as the biggest obstacle to assisting their child with schoolwork

##### Preferred School Year End Date

- 78% of the selected responses indicated wanting a change to reduce the amount of work or end early
- 68% of the respondents indicated wanting to end work by May 8<sup>th</sup>

##### Graduation

- 78% prefer an in-person ceremony

#### TEACHERS – 1, 769 responses

##### Digital Learning Feedback

- 41% reported working more than 5 days per week
- 78% reported working 6 or more hours per day
- 42% reported assigning 20-30 minutes of work daily, per class; 32% reported assigning 30-60 minutes of work daily, per class
- 98% reported providing personal feedback and support to students
- 95% reported checking on students individually and/or giving opportunities to engage with classmates

- 84% reported that working digitally has been as challenging (47%) or more challenging (37%) than expected
- 41% felt they did not need additional resources to teach digitally; the most common responses among those requesting assistance was more training with Canvas and video conference tools

##### Is additional time need to provide extra support for students after the end of the school year?

- One week: 28%
- Two weeks: 32%

##### Post-planning Days

- 51% prefer 2 days
- 31% prefer 3 days

**STUDENTS – 9,597 (1,655 Seniors)****Digital Learning Feedback**

- 67% reported completing schoolwork 5 days per week or continuing during the weekends
- 50% reported working 2-4 hours per day; 17% report working 4-5 hours; 14% report working more than 5 hours.
- 68% believed their assignments should average less than one hour per class
- 76% responded that they have the tools and resources at home to complete their work

- 36% responded that they need no additional resources to be successful; 37% indicated more feedback from teachers would be helpful
- 75% indicated their teachers have been supportive in providing feedback and resources
- 67% reported their teachers had checked in with them individually and/or given opportunities to engage with classmates

**Graduation**

- 82% prefer an in-person ceremony, if social distancing requirements are lifted