



VIRTUAL ELEMENTARY ACADEMY

Information for Parents & Students - 2020-2021 Virtual Elementary Academy

REGISTRATION JULY 6 UNTIL MIDNIGHT ON JULY 13

Register Here: www.paulding.k12.ga.us/PCSDONLINE

The Paulding County School District is excited to announce a new online learning opportunity for our elementary school students. Beginning August 3, 2020, we will offer a 100 percent virtual online school option for our elementary school students. This program is designed for students who would prefer an experience that is similar to a homeschool program with the added expertise of PCSD's highly qualified teachers.

Over the past eight years, PCSD has operated a number of digital learning programs out of our New Hope Education Center. In the last four years, we developed a completely online program called the Paulding Virtual Academy, which has compiled a successful track record of working with students in grades 9 - 12 and supporting some 6 - 8th grade students. PCSD is ready to support elementary school-aged students in the digital world. The addition of the Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy program (PVEA) will enable students in grades K - 5 to work completely online from home with direct video instruction and support from a Paulding elementary teacher. Elementary school students who wish to continue their online learning into middle school and high school may transition into those programs.

The Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy program will provide the following to students:

- A completely online program taught and facilitated by a certified Paulding elementary teacher Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:00AM and 2:30PM
- A combination of video conferencing for interactive instructional lessons, online resources/materials, online assignments, and facilitated instructional support
- Opportunities for participation in instructional video conferencing with teachers
- Online tutoring and support
- Encouragement and monitoring to complete assignments as scheduled
- Parent/teacher communication regarding each student's progress toward grade-level standards
- Student grading that is consistent with the Paulding County School District grading policy. Students/Parents will be able to utilize the normal Parent Portal to view and monitor student academic progress.
- An opportunity to participate in home school (your normal districted elementary school) activities which may include before/after school clubs

Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy requirements:

- Enrollment in the program for a minimum of one semester
- Internet access and appropriate technology device

Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy student responsibilities:

- Work daily in assigned courses
- Meet daily/weekly instructional expectations
- Participate in online lessons and communicate with teachers through email and video conferences
- Participate in activities as required by the districted school and PCSD
- There are courses that will require students to be on a PCSD campus for proctored local assessments. For example, students may be asked to complete the Reading and Math Inventories at school.
- Students will be required to be on a PCSD campus to take required state assessments which may include Georgia Milestone Assessments.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

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

A: Equipment: laptops, chrome books, desktops, tablets, cell phones. Tablets and cellphones work but can be challenging to navigate compared to laptops, Chromebooks, or desktops.

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

Q: As a student, is there a minimum amount of time each day that I should expect to spend completing assignments and participating in video conferences?

A: Virtual teachers will provide activities and schedule instruction between the hours of 8:00 AM and 2:30 PM. Generally, elementary students can expect 4-5 hours per day of instruction, assignments, and/or assessments.

Q: If I decide that Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy is not for me will I be able to return to traditional classes at my home school location?

A: Students are required to remain in the virtual program for at least one semester; students may return to their home school to begin Spring Semester 2021.

Q: What courses are offered?

A: K-5 Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Limited, independent online content may be available in Canvas for Special Areas and STEM.

Q: I have a child with an IEP that receives special education services, can my child attend the Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy program?

A: Yes, as a public school, Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy (PVEA) accepts students with disabilities. Enrollment in PVEA 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 PVEA, the Exceptional Students Education Program (ESEP) coordinator will facilitate an IEP to discuss possible amendments to the student's IEP to reflect acceptance into PVEA.

Q: Can my child participate in Chorus at their home school while enrolled in Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy?

A: Yes, in most cases. Please contact your child's home school and coordinate with the principal and your student's chorus teacher to determine if this is possible.

Q: What are my responsibilities as a parent?

A: Due to the age and maturity of K-5 elementary students, parents/guardians should plan to regularly monitor their child's progress and participation throughout the instructional day. 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.