



VIRTUAL MIDDLE ACADEMY

Information for Parents & Students - 2020-2021 Virtual Middle 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 middle school students. Beginning August 3, 2020, we will offer a 100 percent virtual online school option for our middle school students that will be based out of the New Hope Education Center. This program is designed for students who would prefer an experience that is similar to Paulding Virtual Academy (PVA), which until now was only available to our high school students.

Over the past four years, the PVA program has compiled a successful track record of working with students in grades 9 – 12 and supporting some students in grades 6 – 8. The addition of the Paulding Virtual Middle Academy program (PVMA) will enable students in grades 6 - 8 to work completely online from home. Middle school students who wish to continue their online learning into high school may be offered a seat in PVA.

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

- An opportunity to participate in home school (your normal districted middle school) activities which could include feeder sports programs, dances, additional before/after school clubs
- A completely online program
- Pacing Guides to help guide students on weekly work/task completion
- Online classes completed at home under the supervision of an academic content area teacher
- Ability to connect with an academic content area teacher(s) during their office hours
- Opportunities for participation in instructional video conferencing with teachers while working from home
- Tutoring
- Flexible course load and scheduling to meet individual student needs
- Encouragement and monitoring to complete assignments as scheduled
- 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.

Paulding Virtual Middle Academy requirements:

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

Paulding Virtual Middle Academy student responsibilities:

- Work daily in assigned courses
- Meet daily/weekly pacing guide expectations
- Communicate with program supervisor and teachers through email and video conferences
- Complete weekly online academic performance reflection form
- Participate in activities as required by the districted school and PCSD
- There are courses (specifically any that earn high school credit) that will require students to be on a PCSD campus for proctored assessments.
- Students will be required to be on a PCSD campus to take required state assessments which may include Georgia Milestone Assessments, and End of Course 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: Students should expect to spend an average of one hour per class per day.

Q: If I decide that Paulding Virtual Middle 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: 6,7,8 grade Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Family and Consumer Science, PE, Elective Spanish, Transition to High School, Health, Career Explorations. Students who meet district established guidelines will be able to take HS Spanish (7/8 grade), 8th grade students who meet district establish guidelines will be able to take HS Physical Science, Algebra I, and 9th grade literature.

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

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

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

A: No, chorus and band classes will not be available under the virtual option.

Q: What are my responsibilities as a parent?

A: The program is designed to meet the student's academic needs with some parent involvement, similar to the face to face experience. Parents are encouraged to provide a good learning environment at home, such as a workspace, a good schedule for students to follow, encourage consistent work habits, and regularly check parent portal.