



Paulding County School District

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

MID-SUMMER UPDATE

Information for Parents & Students Heading Into 2020-2021 School Year

We hope you are enjoying your summer! At this time the Paulding County School District is gearing up for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district remains in contact with local health agencies, including the Paulding Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to assess the impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus on our community and to plan accordingly. The school district's planning for the new school year is designed with the health and safety of students as its highest priority, and will be sufficiently flexible to adapt if the current environment should change. The district and individual schools will be providing more information and details as the school year approaches, but here are answers to a few key questions as we reach the summer midpoint.

WHEN WILL SCHOOL START?

August 3, 2020 is the first day of school.

WILL INSTRUCTION BE IN-PERSON IN CLASSROOMS, OR ONLINE?

Parents and students will have a choice:

OPTION 1

Beginning August 3rd, all PCSD schools will reopen and provide in-person classroom instruction following Department of Health guidelines and enhanced health and safety precautions.

OPTION 2

A digital learning option will be available for students to receive online instruction remotely and complete assignments independently through the **Paulding Virtual Academy**. Parents who wish to use this option must enroll their student(s) in a Paulding virtual school for the semester. The enrollment window for the Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy, Paulding Virtual Middle Academy, and Paulding Virtual High Academy begins July 6th and runs until midnight on July 12th. Beginning July 6th, parents may register students here: www.paulding.k12.ga.us/PCSDONLINE.

These options are tailored to the current COVID-19 environment in our community. However, if that environment should change, (*example*: if Gov. Kemp issues an executive order closing schools for in-person instruction as occurred this spring), PCSD schools are prepared to return to a fulltime online Digital Learning format.



WHAT PRECAUTIONS WILL BE TAKEN FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION?

The school district's planning is modeled on the Georgia K-12 Restart and Recovery Plan provided by the Georgia Department of Education. The DOE has outlined three options for reopening schools depending on the COVID-19 spread in each community. A copy of the plan is available here:

<https://www.georgiainsights.com/recovery.html>

At this time, Paulding County falls into the yellow Minimal/Moderate Spread category due to the low number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population over the last 14 days. According to the Georgia K-12 Restart and Recovery Plan, schools in the Minimal/Moderate Spread category may open for in-person instruction based on guidance from the Georgia Department of Health. The district and all schools will diligently implement preventive measures and safe practices to protect students and staff. At a minimum, these measures will include:

- Diligent and thorough hygiene for students and staff.
- Masks strongly recommended for students and staff on buses and in classrooms.
- Daily cleaning and increased and enhanced classroom and school disinfecting and sanitizing.
- Increased availability of hand sanitizer in all schools.
- Increased signage throughout school buildings indicating health conscious protocols.
- Social distancing where feasible, and in large group gatherings such as lunchrooms.

WHAT DID PARENTS SAY ON THE RECENT SURVEY?

A parent survey was conducted June 8-11 and recorded more than 12,500 responses. A summary of results was presented to the Board of Education on June 23 can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/pcsdsurveyresults>

The survey showed 71 percent of parents support students returning to fulltime in-person classroom instruction on August 3rd. Another 21 percent indicated a preference for online Digital Learning, and about 3 percent indicated a preference for individualized online instruction through the Paulding Virtual Academy. Parents also provided important data on the digital environment in their homes, as well as their priorities for making Digital Learning more effective in the future.

More information will be forthcoming from the district and schools as the new school year approaches. If you have questions about the options and information provided above, feel free to send an email to backtoschool@paulding.k12.ga.us.

In the meantime, please remember the great Summer Learning Resources the school district has put together here: <https://www.tinyurl.com/pcsdsommerresources> so that students can continue learning and be prepared heading into the new school year. Enjoy the rest of your summer! We look forward to seeing our terrific PCSD students very soon!