



Engage. Inspire. Prepare.

August 30, 2021

Dear PCSD High School Parents/Guardians:

The Paulding County School District is facing a critical shortage of bus drivers that is severely impacting the district’s capacity to transport students to and from school. While COVID-19 has contributed to the shortage, a bigger factor is that recruitment efforts have been unable to fill numerous operating positions across the district, including transportation, food service, custodial, substitute teaching, and more. The bus driver vacancies are resulting in delays and disruptions to day-to-day operations and instruction. As a result, the school district must act now to ensure enough buses are available each day of the week to transport the maximum number of students. Under the current circumstances, shifting just one high school per day to Digital Learning will provide the district with enough bus drivers to cover the routes of the remaining 32 schools.

Beginning September 7, 2021, following the Labor Day holiday, Paulding County high schools will shift to a new schedule of four days of in-person instruction and one Digital Learning Day (DLD Red Level 2), per week. To ensure our high school students receive consistent access to high-quality instruction on their assigned Digital Learning Day, students will follow their daily class schedules online and participate in synchronous instruction with their teachers and classmates. Each high school’s Digital Learning Day will be a different day of the week, but the DLD will stay the same for each high school. The days were selected for each school to maximize the operational impact. Here is the new schedule:

NEW HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE BEGINNING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
EAST PAULDING HS	In-Person	Level 2 DLD	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person
HIRAM HS	Level 2 DLD	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person
NORTH PAULDING HS	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	Level 2 DLD
PAULDING COUNTY HS	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	Level 2 DLD	In-Person
SOUTH PAULDING HS	In-Person	In-Person	Level 2 DLD	In-Person	In-Person

The new schedule will provide relief for transportation as buses will transport students from only four high schools instead of five each day. This plan also provides support for labor shortages in other operational areas since food service staff, custodians, and substitute teachers can be shifted to cover vacancies across the district. This schedule will continue until the district is able to hire and train more drivers. Interested applicants may apply here: <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/45352>.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding as we adapt to meet the challenges of this unprecedented environment and labor market, and work toward returning to a normal in-person schedule. The Red Level 2 DLD information page is attached. If you have questions about this new schedule, please contact your local school administration.

Sincerely,



Steve Barnette
Interim Superintendent



Brad Thomason, Principal
East Paulding High School



Misty Cooksey, Principal
Hiram High School



Gabe Carmona, Principal
North Paulding High School



Craig Wilcox, Principal
Paulding County High School



Keith Rowland, Principal
South Paulding High School

Digital Learning Days Parent Information



RED LEVEL 2

OVERVIEW

For future extended school closures, we may pivot to **Red Level 2 “Digital Learning”**. Teachers will provide assignments via Canvas, our learning management system, for students to complete at home. Teachers will also hold live sessions, provide feedback, conference with students, and be available for questions through Canvas during normal work hours. The following are expectations for an extended closure.

SYNCHRONOUS VS. ASYNCHRONOUS

All students will be given synchronous and asynchronous opportunities in all classes. Teachers will communicate with their students when synchronous sessions are occurring and how students should access them.

REQUIREMENTS

- All Digital Work will be housed in Canvas in clearly labeled modules.
- Teachers will assess learning and record grades as they would in an in-person instruction classroom.

DAILY ASSIGNMENT EXPECTATIONS

Students will follow their daily schedule. Parents should expect assignment(s) from each class in their child’s schedule. Teachers will provide synchronous sessions for each class period to provide feedback, conference with students, and respond to questions. Teachers will post specific times for these synchronous sessions.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Check with your child’s teachers for details on how to connect with them through Canvas on the Digital Learning Days.

K-5	Students and teachers follow normal in-person schedule
6-8	Students and teachers follow normal in-person schedule
9-12	Students and teachers follow normal in-person schedule

ELEMENTARY SPECIALS SCHEDULE

Each elementary homeroom teacher will post a daily schedule in Canvas. Specials teachers will provide synchronous sessions with students according to the scheduled rotation. Check your child’s schedule for specific times.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Make sure your student can access Canvas.
- Set up your parent account.

DIGITAL ACCESS CONCERNS

- Students may download offline course content from Canvas.
- Local businesses, libraries and churches may offer free wi-fi in their parking lots.

NEED HELP?

- Refer to the Canvas parent and student guides.
- Contact your child’s teacher.

LEARN MORE AT:

www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/42513
(Parent Info)

www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/36387
(Student Info)