



VIRTUAL ELEMENTARY ACADEMY

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

REGISTRATION OCTOBER 12 TO MIDNIGHT ON NOVEMBER 1

Register Through Infinite Campus Parent Portal - Instructions Here: www.paulding.k12.ga.us/virtual

The Paulding County School District is excited to announce our online learning opportunity for elementary school students. The K-5 Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy (PVEA) option was created in direct response to the feedback we received from parents/guardians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The academic expectations and rigor will mirror face-to-face instruction, and virtual students will have a full school day Monday-Friday. Due to the age and maturity of elementary students, there is a significant time commitment for parents/guardians to help facilitate and supervise virtual learning for their K-5 student(s).

Prior to each semester through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, an online registration form will be issued to parents/guardians during an announced window of time. Parents/guardians must register students for PVEA during the window to allow schools, teachers, and the district to plan appropriately for the following semester. Please note that parents selecting PVEA for their student during the window are committing to virtual instruction for a full semester (minimum 18-weeks).

PCSD staffs face-to-face and virtual learning with existing Paulding teachers, so as the demand for virtual learning changes throughout the year, adjustments to virtual staffing also become necessary. Parents/guardians should be aware that the student's virtual teacher may not be physically located at the school where they are districted, and students may have a different PVEA teacher each semester. Parents are advised to select the learning environment that is best for their student's health, wellbeing, and learning style, not based upon teacher preference.

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 live video conferencing for interactive instructional lessons, online resources/materials, online assignments, and live online instructional support small groups
- Opportunities for participation in live tutoring and supportive instruction
- Access to supportive instruction such as ESOL, EIP, Title 1, ESEP, etc.
- Weekly Special Area Content (Art, Music, PE, STEM)
- 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's elementary grading policies. Students/Parents will be able to utilize Infinite Campus Parent Portal to view and monitor student academic progress and grade reports.
- 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 (18 weeks)
- Internet access and appropriate technology device
- Access to general school supplies and the ability to print assigned handouts
- Parent/Guardian Commitment: A supervising adult for PVEA students must be available between the hours of 8:00AM -2:30PM Monday-Friday and is responsible for ensuring that the student attends each live video conferencing session, stays on-task, follows the daily schedule, behaves appropriately, and completes independent work.
- Daily Schedule Commitment: PVEA students are required to login each day by 8:00AM and be online for all live sessions between 8:00AM and 2:30PM Monday-Friday. Live sessions are not recorded for on-demand participation outside of normal school hours.

Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy student responsibilities:

- Login each morning by 8:00AM for attendance and Morning Meeting
- Login and participate in all live instruction between 8:00-2:30 (whole class, individual, and small groups)
- Work independently on daily assignments posted by the teacher
- Participate in Friday Specials activities and/or assigned Friday instructional support sessions & assessments
- 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:

1. What is the program called?

Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy (PVEA)

2. Why did the district decide to develop PVEA?

PVEA was developed to meet the education needs of PCSD students who elect not to return to their home school due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Will there be certified teachers in the program? What will my role be as parent/guardian?

PCSD will be staffing virtual learning with certified elementary teachers from across the district. PVEA is not designed for elementary-aged students to work 100% independently. Children will need a combination of support from their parent/guardian along with PVEA's highly-qualified teachers.

4. If my student was in PVEA first semester, is he/she guaranteed to have the same PVEA teacher the following semester? If my teacher does change, can I then choose to return my child to face-to-face?

No, PVEA staffing is based on several factors including the number of students who register for PVEA and the number of students who register for in-person instruction. Registration in PVEA during the registration window assures that your student will have a seat in PVEA, but it neither guarantees the same teacher nor does it guarantee a teacher from your districted school. Parents/guardians are encouraged to make their choices based on the best learning environment for their student (in-person or virtual) and not based upon the current teacher as that teacher may change.

5. How many students can participate in the program?

Program capacity will be determined after the close of the application window.

6. Can homeschool students participate in the program?

Homeschool students should register as a student of the Paulding County School District to participate in PVEA. New students to Paulding who register after the PVEA registration window has closed will need to apply for hardship into PVEA.

7. Will transportation be provided?

No, transportation will not be provided.

8. Can students participate in all after-school activities at their home school (ie., Chorus, Science Club)?

Yes, in fact, it is encouraged. Students who participate in PVEA are considered full members of their districted school and may participate in all after school extracurricular clubs and special events at the districted school. Please note that participation is contingent upon expectations of each individual program. Please reach out to the school or club-sponsor with questions.

9. How do parents/guardians enroll their student(s)?

Complete the online enrollment located in Infinite Campus Parent Portal during the registration window.

10. Can students apply after the registration window closes?

PCSD students who apply after the registration window will need to establish a **documented hardship and program space must be available in the requested grade-level/course.** The hardship request stating the reasons for hardship and supporting documentation should be submitted to Marie Sellers at msellers@paulding.k12.ga.us. Please note, academic difficulty and teacher preference are not considered hardships.

11. Can students withdraw from PVEA and return to their districted school in-person?

Yes, but transfers from PVEA to the districted school will occur only **at the end of each semester.** Students may transfer after the completion of any semester.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

12. At what point are students committed to attending PVEA and cannot return in-person to their districted school?

Parents/guardians of PVEA students must register during the registration window. Students are committed to PVEA at the close of the registration window.

13. Will PVEA students have the first 10-days of the semester to return to face-to-face instruction?

No, PCSD students who wish to drop out of PVEA after the start of the semester will need to establish a documented hardship and face-to-face classes at the districted school must have seats available in the requested grade-level. PVEA students wishing to return face-to-face should contact their districted school's principal.

14. How often must the students physically attend PVEA or their local elementary school?

Students are required to attend for proctored assessments and counselor tasks.

15. I have a child with an IEP that receives special education services, can my child attend the Paulding Virtual Elementary School program?

Yes, as a public school, Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy accepts students with disabilities. Enrollment in Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy 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 Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy, the Exceptional Students Education Program (ESEP) coordinator will facilitate an IEP to discuss possible amendments to the student's IEP to reflect acceptance into Paulding Virtual Elementary Academy. We encourage parents to contact the PCSD Student Services Department at 770-443-8030 prior to registering; Student Services can also be reached at: studentservices@paulding.k12.ga.us

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

- Equipment: laptops, chrome books, desktops, tablets, cell phones. Tablets and cellphones work but can be challenging to navigate compared to larger devices.
- Video Conferencing: Video conferencing works on any internet connected device. If two-way video is desired the internet connected device must have a camera.

17. What supplies will PVEA students need?

Most elementary courses will require access to basic school supplies and the ability to print handouts for written activities. Parents can use their districted school's posted Elementary Supply List as a guide. Elementary Supply Lists are posted on each individual school's website.

18. 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?

Elementary students should expect to spend approximately 4-5 hours per day on instruction, assignments, and assessments.

19. What courses are offered?

- K-5 Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.
- Limited, independent online content for Special Areas and STEM