



VIRTUAL MIDDLE ACADEMY

Information for Parents & Students - 2020-2021 Virtual Middle 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 a new online learning opportunity for middle school students. The 6-8 Paulding Virtual Middle Academy (PVMA) option was created in direct response to the feedback we received from parents/guardians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The academic expectations, rigor, and instructional day will mirror that of a traditional school day (8:15-3:35pm). Students will be required to participate in virtual class sessions along with utilizing an online platform for their daily/weekly assignments and submission of completed work. Students who are taking classes for high school credit such as (Spanish I, Algebra I, Physical Science, 9th Literature) will be enrolled for those courses in the Paulding Virtual Academy (PVA).

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 PVMA during the window to allow schools, teachers, and the district to plan appropriately for the following semester. Please note that parents selecting PVMA for their student during the window are committing to virtual instruction for a full semester (which is a minimum of 18 weeks).

Paulding County School District teachers provide instruction to students in both the virtual and face to face options so as the demand for virtual learning changes each semester then adjustments to virtual staffing will also be made. Parents/guardians should be aware that their child may have a completely different schedule of teachers each semester and that some virtual teachers may not be physically located at the school where their child is districted to attend.

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

- A completely online program facilitated by Paulding County School District teachers;
- Live video conferencing and online classes to be completed at home;
- Opportunities for participation in live tutoring and supportive instruction;
- Access to supportive instruction such as ESOL, ESEP, etc.;
- 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;
- Regular opportunities for parent/teacher communication;
- Encouragement and monitoring to complete assignments as scheduled;
- An opportunity to participate in home school (your normal districted middle school) activities which may include feeder sports programs along with other after school clubs.

Paulding Virtual Middle Academy requirements:

- Enrollment in the program for a minimum of one semester (18 weeks);
- Internet access and appropriate technology device;
- Attending live video conferencing sessions.

Paulding Virtual Middle Academy student responsibilities:

- Work daily in assigned courses;
- Participation in video conferencing sessions;
- Meet daily/weekly pacing guide expectations;
- Communicate with teachers via email and video conferences;
- Complete weekly academic assignments and submit as required by teachers;
- 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:

1. What is the program called?

Paulding Virtual Middle Academy

2. Why did the PCSD decide to develop PVMA

PVMA was developed to meet the educational needs of PCSD students who wanted a virtual option due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

3. If my student was in PVMA first semester, is he/she guaranteed to have the same PVMA teachers the following semester?

No, PVMA staffing is based upon several factors including the number of students who register for PVMA and the number of students who choose in-person instruction.

4. Can students withdraw from PVMA and return to their districted school for in-person instruction?

Transfers from PVMA back into in-person instruction will only occur after the completion of a semester (either Fall or Spring)

5. At what point are students committed to attending PVMA for Spring Semester 2021?

Students who are registered for PVMA are committed to PVMA at the close of the registration window.

6. Will PVMA 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 PVMA after the start of the semester will need to have a documented hardship and there must be available space at their districted school.

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

Laptops, chrome books, desktops, tablets, cell phones. Tablets and cellphones work but can be challenging to navigate compared to laptops, chrome books, or desktops. For video conferencing students will need a device with a camera and microphone.

8. 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?

Students will have approximately 2-3 required video conferencing sessions each day and can expect to spend a minimum of 1 hour on each academic class and 30 minutes on each connection class. (Students will have 4 academic classes and 2 connection classes)

9. If I decide that Paulding Virtual Middle School is not for me, will I be able to return to traditional classes at my home school location?

Students are required to remain in the virtual program for a semester (18 weeks) and can return to face to face instruction at their home school the following semester.

10. What courses are offered?

6,7,8 grade Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Family and Consumer Science, PE, Transition to High School, Health, Career Explorations, Art, and Music Appreciation. 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 (note that any course earning high school credit will be offered through the Paulding Virtual Academy)

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

Yes, as a public school, Paulding Virtual Middle School (PVMS) accepts students with disabilities. Once a student with a disability has been registered with PVMS, the Exceptional Students Education Program (ESEP) coordinator will facilitate an IEP to discuss possible amendments to the student's IEP to reflect acceptance into PVMS. We encourage parents to contact the PCSD Student Services Department at 770-443-8003 prior to registering; Student Services can also be reached at: studentservices@paulding.k12.ga.us



12. Can my child participate in Band or Chorus at their home school while enrolled in Paulding Virtual Middle School?

No, these classes are not available for students choosing the virtual option

13. What are my responsibilities as a parent?

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. Regularly checking parent portal and monitoring their student's completion and submission of assignments in Canvas is essential towards student success in PVMA.