



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

Engage. Inspire. Prepare.

July 29, 2020

Hello PCSD Virtual Academy Families,

We would like to welcome you and your child to the 2020-2021 virtual school year.

PCSD is offering both in-person and virtual instruction to allow families a choice to best meet their individual student needs. As a family who has chosen to be part of the Virtual Elementary or Virtual Middle Academies, you are enrolling in an inaugural program that we are excited to launch. If your child is a high school student, they will be participating in a program that has been offered to our high school students successfully for the last five years.



In order to provide this opportunity for you, we have reimagined what school can look like. Therefore, we ask for your patience in advance as our virtual school enrollment has grown to more than 9,000 students in grades K-12. This makes the Paulding Virtual Academy equivalent in enrollment size to the 38th largest school district of the 180 school districts in Georgia. And, there will be more than 200 teachers to support your child and their learning.

WHAT SHOULD MY VIRTUAL STUDENT DO ON AUGUST 3rd?

Significant effort has gone into creating a virtual program to serve all students in grades K-12. All virtual students should have a schedule and have been assigned a virtual teacher. Now is time for you to prepare for learning! Start by designating a school workspace in your home and take a moment for you and your child to log into Canvas. If you need assistance with Canvas, resources are available on our home page at this link: <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=36386>

HOW WILL WE MEET OUR TEACHER(S)?

Elementary – Your virtual teachers will be reaching out to you this week by phone and/or email to introduce themselves. On Monday, August 3rd teachers will host a class orientation online. To view a sample elementary school virtual schedule, review our [Virtual Academies](#) webpage.

Middle – Your middle school child could have up to six teachers (four content areas and two connections), and their teachers will begin contacting their students on Monday, August 3rd. To view your schedule visit Infinite Campus Parent Portal and to see a sample schedule on [Virtual Academies](#) webpage.

High – Information regarding the high school Open House has been distributed to all students. We hope all students took the opportunity to log in and meet their teachers and learn more about the high school program. There will a required Virtual Student Orientation on August 3rd. In addition, high school teachers will be reaching out by either phone or email this week to contact their students.

WHAT WILL THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL LOOK LIKE FOR VIRTUAL STUDENTS?

- **Elementary and Middle** – Much like in-person instruction, students will be getting to know one another, learning rituals and routines, completing orientation assignments on Canvas, and learning the importance of digital citizenship.
- **High** – Orientation activities have been planned, and students will begin to interface with their teacher and initial course content.

IF MY CHILDREN ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED BREAKFAST AND LUNCH, HOW CAN THEY PARTICIPATE?

The District will provide our virtual students breakfast and lunch options. Breakfast and lunch service will begin the week of August 10th. Parents are strongly encouraged to set up a payment account through www.myschoolbucks.com. Students who are reduced- or paid-meal status must have funds available in their meal account to receive meals.

The Free/Reduced Meal Applications can be accessed online at <http://pcnutrition.school lunchapp.com>. As a reminder, families participating in the Free/Reduced Meal Program must re-apply at the beginning of each school year to avoid a disruption in benefits.

For added convenience, we will arrange for families to pick up a week's worth of breakfast and/or lunch one day per week. A pre-order process will be required in order to participate. More information will follow concerning the pre-order process.

WHAT IF MY CHILD REMAINS ON A WAIT LIST FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO ONE OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOLS?

Our virtual program relies on certified staff to provide instruction and support students. We have accommodated all the seats currently available. As seats come open, we will contact families. In the meantime, we encourage you to send your child to their districted school for in-person instruction.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE VIRTUAL PROGRAM?

The following documents are currently available on [Virtual Academies](#) webpage. Documents included on this page are an overview for each level, Parent and Student Virtual Handbooks, and sample student schedules for our elementary and middle school students. If your child is a high school student or an 8th grade student taking a high school course, additional information can be found on the [NEW HOPE EDUCATION CENTER](#) website.

We are excited about the opportunities that this year brings. With this new adventure, there will be challenges and we ask your patience, support, and involvement.