

PAULDING VIRTUAL ACADEMY – HIGH SCHOOL



**PVA – High School
Parent & Student Handbook
2026-2027**

Paulding Virtual Academy

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DISTRICT CALENDAR



Paulding County School District

2026-2027

Academic Calendar

July 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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October 26						
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November 26						
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29	30					

December 26						
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27	28	29	30	31		

January 27						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 27						
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28						

March 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- Staff Workday
- Remote Learning Days
- Holiday/Schools Closed
- Early Release Days

☆ First/Last Day of School

Paulding Virtual Academy

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Paulding Virtual Academy (PVA) option was created in direct response to the feedback we received from parents/guardians. The PCSD offers a 100% virtual online school. The academic expectations and rigor mirror face-to-face instruction, and virtual students will have a full school day Monday through Friday. Students will participate in virtual class sessions and utilize an online platform for their daily/weekly assignments and submission of completed work.

Over the past ten years, PCSD has operated a successful online program under the name of Paulding Virtual Academy, which has compiled a successful track record of working with students in grades 9-12. The lessons and best practices at PVA provide students at the districted schools unique learning experiences outside of a traditional classroom. Enrollment in PVA for high school enables students in grades 9 - 12 to work from home or anywhere they have access to a computer and internet access. Student enrollment in the high school online program is conditionally based on the students' appropriate attendance in the program and continued satisfactory academic progress.

Prior to each school year 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 PVA during the window to allow schools, teachers, and the district to plan appropriately for the following school year. Please note that parents selecting PVA for their student during the window are committing to virtual instruction for a full school year.

The Paulding Virtual Academy will operate according to the following:

- 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.
- Encouragement and monitoring to complete assignments as scheduled.
- Parent/teacher communication regarding each student's progress.
- Student grading that is consistent with the Paulding County School District's grading policies. Students/Parents will be able to utilize the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to view and monitor student academic progress.
- The ability to participate in home high school (your normal districted high school) activities which may include clubs, sports programs, proms, graduation, and other after school activities.
- Pacing Guides outlining the class requirements due each week.

Paulding Virtual Academy requirements:

- Enrollment in the program for a **minimum of one school year**.
- **A GPA of 2.5 is recommended but not required.**
- Internet access and appropriate technology device per student enrolled in PVA
- Parent/Guardian Commitment: Must ensure that students are online in their courses and attending each live video conferencing session, behaving appropriately, and completing independent work.
- **REQUIRED**: Updated phone numbers and e-mail addresses in IC, a working Parent Portal account, and a working paired Canvas account.

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- **Daily Schedule Commitment:** All PVA students are **required** to login each day, in addition to the following schedule commitments:
 - **Students Who Are on Pace and Passing:**
 - Students who are on pace with the course pacing guide and earning a passing grade are marked present each school day upon logging in.
 - Attendance in live sessions is encouraged but optional for all non End of Course (EOC) courses.
 - Live session recordings are provided for review and academic support.
 - **Students Who Are Not on Pace or Not Passing:**
 - Students who are failing a course or who are not on pace must adhere to the following requirements:
 - Attend and actively participate in the daily live session(s) for the specific course(s) in which they are failing or behind.
 - Complete at least one missing assignment or resubmit a failing assignment in Canvas each day.
 - Failure to meet these expectations will result in the student being marked absent.
 - These requirements remain in effect until the student is passing and on pace again.
 - **Students Enrolled in End-of-Course (EOC) Courses:**
 - EOC courses include Algebra, Biology, Literature/Composition II, and U.S. History.
 - Teachers may require students—regardless of current grade status—to attend designated live sessions as part of the formative assessment process in preparation for the EOC.
 - Required attendance expectations, along with live session schedules, will be communicated to students and parents at the start of each semester.
 - Recordings of live sessions will remain available; however, required attendance must be met when specified.

Paulding Virtual Academy student responsibilities:

- Login daily and participate in all live instruction and coursework in Canvas.
- Fulfill daily/weekly pacing guide expectations.
- Communicate with teachers through e-mail and video conferences.
- Participate in activities as required by the districted school and PCSD.
- Some courses require students to be on a PCSD campus for proctored assessments, such as Milestones, End-of-Course tests and End-of-Pathway assessments, as mandated by the Georgia Department of Education. Below is a list of current high school courses that require an in-person End-of-Course assessment:
 - Algebra
 - Biology
 - Literature & Composition II
 - U.S. History

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students should work on all classes daily to maintain an acceptable pace as required by each course pacing guide. Assignments will be posted in Canvas by the virtual instructor, and students should plan to spend 4-5 hours on academic work each day.

Students should regularly communicate with the virtual instructors regarding student progress and check Canvas for both assignments and student progress. Parents should regularly check their Parent Portal

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account to help monitor work that is being submitted by their student.

Students may accelerate progress in their coursework based upon their academic ability to do so.

Students who do not meet academic expectations will receive a letter from administration and be placed on Academic Probation. Students who do not respond to this probation will be subject to administrative action.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADING SCALE INFORMATION

Numerical Grading Scale

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 – 79

F = 0 - 69

Honors Weighting on Numerical Grade Point Average

Additional numeric points are added to a student's grades who take Advanced Placement courses and International Baccalaureate and earn a 70 or higher. The additional 10 points is recorded as part of the weighted numerical average on the student's transcript for each course successfully completed.

Additional numeric points are added to a student's grades who take Honors courses and earn a 70 or higher. The additional 5 points is recorded as part of the weighted numerical average on the student's transcript for each course successfully completed.

Effective July 1, 2014, students who entered 9th grade during August 2011, and for any subsequent year, 10 additional numeric points are added to the grade of any successfully completed Dual Enrollment core course. Core courses include English, math, science, social studies, and/or world language courses. The additional 10 points are recorded as part of the weighted numerical average as converted and recorded on the transcript.

GRADES – COURSE - PLACEMENT

Student grades and course placements are based upon the time of enrollment in PVA. The academic expectation is for students to complete all course work within the allotted semester.

PVA will offer a full suite of online classes to support students' on time graduation. The school counselor will discuss with students and families the best course load based upon each student's individual needs.

WITHDRAWAL CRITERIA

PVA is considered a virtual school choice option; therefore, enrollment may be revoked based on a variety of reasons. Appropriate school personnel are authorized to withdraw a student who:

1. Has excessive absences:
 - a. Accumulates 10 unexcused absences per semester.

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- b. Absences include failing to log on to courses daily.
2. Fails to maintain appropriate pace and academic progress:
 - a. Pace: Each student receives a pacing guide for every course that they take at PVA. Each pacing guide lists the assignments students are required to complete each week.
 - b. Academic Progress: This refers to the student's current class average at any given time. Any assignment listed on the pacing guide that is not completed for the appropriate week will be entered into Infinite Campus as a 0%. However, students can still complete these 0% assignments through the end of each semester.
3. Student or supervising parent/guardian continually behaves in an inappropriate or disruptive manner during live class sessions, in electronic or phone communication with staff members, and/or infringes upon the rights and privileges of other students participating in the class. This includes, but is not limited to, frequently interrupting classroom instruction, the use of profanity or coarse language, disrespectful behavior/comments, inappropriate exposure, and inappropriate or disrespectful communications with a staff member.
4. The superintendent or superintendent's designee has determined the student is no longer a resident of the local school system or is enrolled in a private school or home study program.
5. Other just causes.

ATTENDANCE & ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Excessive absences have a significant impact on students' academic performance. The PCSD shall comply with all requirements of state law, State Board of Education rules, and the Student Attendance Protocol that has been developed by the Student Attendance Protocol Committee. **Board Policy JB.** Attendance will be reported and maintained in Infinite Campus, and parents may monitor their student's attendance in Parent Portal.

In the virtual setting, student attendance is determined by one of the following three categories:

1. Students Who Are Passing and On-Pace:
 - Students who are on pace with the course pacing guide and earning a passing grade are marked present each school day upon logging in.
 - Attendance in live sessions is encouraged but optional for all non-End-of-Course (EOC) courses (Algebra, Biology, Literature/Composition II, and U.S. History).
 - Live session recordings are provided for review and academic support.
2. Students Who Are Not On-Pace or Not Passing:
 - Students who are failing a course or who are not on pace must adhere to the following requirements:
 - Attend and actively participate in the daily live session(s) for the specific course(s) in which they are failing or behind.
 - Complete at least one missing assignment or resubmit a failing assignment in Canvas each day.
 - Failure to meet these expectations will result in the student being marked absent.
 - These requirements remain in effect until the student is passing and on-pace again.
3. Students Enrolled in End-of-Course (EOC) Courses:
 - EOC courses include Algebra, Biology, Literature/Composition II, and U.S. History.
 - Teachers may require students—regardless of current grade status—to attend designated live sessions as part of the formative assessment process in preparation for the EOC.
 - Required attendance expectations, along with live session schedules, will be communicated to students and parents at the start of each semester.
 - Recordings of live sessions will remain available; however, required attendance must be met when specified.

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*Additional general attendance, tardiness, and participation guidelines

4. Students that visit the physical school building (the home high school) for completion of specific tasks must be checked in and out through the school office.
5. Students who visit the physical school building (where the virtual teacher is housed or other specified location) for completion of specific academic or counselor tasks must be checked in/out through the school office. All visits to the physical school building must be approved either by the virtual teacher or by local school administration **no less than 24-hours in advance**. Unapproved/drop-in visitation and non-academic visitation are prohibited.
6. Teachers will manage the first three absences/tardies to class. On the fourth absent or tardy event the student is to be referred to an administrator.

INTERNET/EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRONIC NETWORK USAGE

PVA students have 24/7 access to the curriculum. Please note:

1. Students are offered the opportunity to enhance their education using the internet and other electronic networks. There is no right to privacy as it relates to information accessed, developed, or used on Paulding County School District computers, networks, and the internet. Paulding County School District employees may monitor or access information from computer workstations at any time. Paulding County School District does not provide electronic mail, off campus internet access, or equipment to students. The school district does provide each student with a laptop.
2. Paulding County School District takes precautions to prevent access to materials that may be defamatory, inaccurate, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate in the education center setting. On an unregulated network however, it is impossible to control all material, and a user may discover inappropriate material. Ultimately, the parent/guardian is responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their student should follow, as the parent/guardian is legally responsible for his/her student's actions. Paulding County School District supports and respects each family's right to decide to authorize unsupervised access to the Paulding County School District education center's electronic networks. Any violation of the terms and conditions, outlined on the internet and electronic network usage form, will result in immediate revoking of internet and electronic network privileges and may result in termination from the program.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

There is no charge to participate in Paulding Virtual Academy. **Please note, all prospective Paulding Virtual Academy students must confirm access to their own device and internet connection during school hours before enrollment in the program.** Additionally, students need the ability to print handouts and need access to general school supplies.

Materials, equipment, internet access, or any support that students receive from the school system, are issued to students as borrowed property; consequently, students will be held responsible for damage and/or loss of items issued to them. Any financial obligations must be settled before a student can withdraw, graduate, receive grade reports (including final transcripts), student records, or diplomas. Please note, all prospective PVA students must confirm access to their own computer and internet connection during school hours before enrollment in the program.

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POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Students participating in PVA are subject to the rules, regulations, and behavioral expectations of the Paulding County School District as defined by Paulding County School District's Board Policy. All students are expected to adhere to both Board Policy and local program rules. These policies and rules will serve as guidelines and are subject to administrative discretion when appropriate.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Parents/guardians and students are asked to sign a form acknowledging their receipt of the Student Code of Conduct. The Student Discipline Codes of Conduct for Elementary, Middle, and High School Students are contained in Regulation JD-R (2) and JD-R (3). The information regarding rules and regulations of this policy are contained in Regulations JD-R (0), JD-R (1), JD-R (2) and JD-R (3).

It is the intention of the Paulding County School District to establish standards for behavior that expect students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within the district.

PVA's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the code of conduct, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole.

Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in the Paulding County School District Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places:

1. At school, on school property, or at school sponsored events at any time
2. Off school grounds at any school activity, function, or event and while traveling to and from such events
3. On vehicles provided for student transportation by the school system and at school bus stops.
4. During live sessions online with your PVA classes and in communications with staff members.

Students may be disciplined for conduct off campus which is felonious, or which may pose a threat to the school's learning environment or the safety of students and employees.

Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the Code of Conduct and to be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

As required by the Georgia General Assembly, parents and guardians are encouraged to inform their children on the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

STANDARDS FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Standards for student behavior are designed to create the expectation that students will behave themselves in such a way to facilitate a positive learning environment. The standards are designed to encourage students to respect each other and school district employees, to motivate students to follow student behavior policies adopted by the BOE, and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within this school district.

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Behavioral Expectations

1. Demonstrate courtesy with all individuals regardless of circumstances.
2. Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
3. Actively engage in live video lessons and avoid any behavior that may be distracting to other learners.
4. Demonstrate positive Digital Citizenship and Safety behaviors.
5. Prepare for each class by bringing appropriate materials for online and individual work.
6. Meet the Paulding County School District student dress code when on video conferencing or when physically on campus.
7. Respect the rights and privileges of all students, teachers, and employees of PCSD.
8. Respect the property of others, including Paulding County School District property and facilities.
9. Refrain from committing violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCESSES

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by corrective consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the character traits from Georgia's Character Education Program.

Due to the nature of the PVA's format, disciplinary options are limited to conferences, and denial of access to school district properties including software.

1. First infraction
 - Parent and student notification/warning, documented parent/teacher/student conference prior to, denial of access (3 days)
2. Second infraction
 - Parent and student notification, parent meeting prior to continuation, denial of access (5 days)
3. Third infraction
 - Parent and student notification, parent meeting prior to continuation, denial of access (10 days)
4. Fourth infraction
 - Removal from PVA and return to the districted public school

Level 3 discipline offenses are serious acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, repeated misbehaviors of a similar nature, serious disruptions of the virtual school environment, threats to health, safety or property and other acts of serious misconduct. Any such misconduct may result in the immediate suspension of the student from the school and/or school-sponsored activities for up to ten (10) school days pending disciplinary investigation of allegations.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND EXPECTATIONS

Parents are encouraged to monitor their student's progress regularly by checking Canvas along with regularly checking Parent Portal.

Parents/guardians must be available for conferences, meetings, or phone calls with teachers and administrators as requested. For technology support or questions about a student's academic progress, parents/guardians should communicate with teachers via email or telephone outside of the live, virtual sessions.

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Parents are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior. Parents should avoid disruptive adult behaviors during live conferencing sessions and in communication with staff members that would disrupt the educational process.

AUTHORITY OF THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The director/principal may undertake the corrective measure or measures that are determined to be in the best interest of the student and the virtual school, including student withdrawal, denial of access, adjustments to a student's schedule, adjustments to the building schedule, and course offerings provided any such action does not violate school board policy.

SPORTS - CLUBS – EXTRACURRICULAR

- Students will maintain all eligibility requirements established at the time of enrollment into PVA.
- Students initially enrolling with PCSD and enrolling into PVA will have an eligibility status of their districted home school.
- Students may not change eligibility once enrolled into PVA.
- Students will be permitted and are encouraged to interact with schools in the district for the following activities: All sports and sporting events, Band, Clubs, Booster activities, Proms, other dances, graduation.
- Please note that there may be limitations for participation in clubs/extracurricular activities contingent upon the individual expectations of each local school program.

PVA PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

Student and enrolling Parent/Guardian must reside within the borders of the Paulding County School District and must apply during the open registration window. Please refer back to the "Program Summary" section to see additional Paulding Virtual Academy requirements.

PROGRAM DETAILS AND DAILY SCHEDULE

- All Paulding County School District students in grades 9 - 12 are eligible to apply for admission into the PVA program during the open registration window.
- Students not currently enrolled in the PCSD, but living in Paulding County, will be allowed to apply for admission through Central Registration and will be enrolled by their districted home school counselor.
- PVA instruction will be a combination of live video conferencing lessons, online resources, and opportunities for tutoring.
- PVA teachers will be available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 AM and 3 PM for student support and live video instruction, but please note that PVA teachers will determine the daily instructional schedules for their courses in accordance with district and local school guidance.
- Students will have 24/7 access to the Learning Management Systems and course content.
- PVA students will have 4 academic courses each semester (except for seniors qualifying for minimum day)

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- Regular opportunities for parent/teacher communication and requests for tutoring - provided the request can be scheduled between the hours of 8 AM to 3 PM.
- Students will be encouraged to progress through the coursework at their own pace but must meet minimum pacing standards as listed in the pacing guides. Students may have the opportunity to accelerate their academic progress through demonstrated performance and approval.
- All students taking classes through PVA will be required to take any state or district mandated assessments at their home high school. These include all End-of-Course assessments: Algebra, Biology, Literature & Composition II, and U.S. History.
- PVA students may pursue opportunities available to them through Dual Enrollment and Work-Based Learning.
- Students will be offered opportunities to connect with college and career partners while taking classes at PVA in order to develop connections they will need after they complete high school.

High School Schedule	Monday - Friday
8:55 – 10:15	1st Block
10:20 – 11:20	2nd Block
11:20 – 12:20	Lunch
12:20 - 1:30	3rd Block
1:35 – 2:45	4 th Block
2:45 – 3:30	During any unscheduled time and on any given day, the following could occur: Small Groups, Individual Work, Tutoring, Counseling Sessions, Parent Contacts, Student Conferences

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COURSE LISTING

English Language Arts	Social Studies	Online Electives
Advanced Comp British Lit H. British Lit American Lit H. American Lit Literature & Composition II H. Literature & Composition II Literature & Composition I H. Literature & Composition I Mythology Writer's Workshop Journalism Oral/Written Communication (Speech)	Personal Finance & Economics H. Personal Finance & Economics American Government H. American Government US History H. US History World History H. World History World Geography H. World Geography Current Issues Personal Financial Literacy Sports in U.S. Society Psychology Sociology Humanities	Audio, Video, Film Technology Banking, Investing, Insurance Basic Ag Science Business and Technology Business Communication Current issues/Personal Finance (9 weeks each) Digital Design Essentials of Healthcare Financial Literacy (Block) Food for Life Food Science Food, Nut. and Wellness French I French II French III Gen Phys Ed Health/Per Flt Combined Humanities Intro to Business Intro to Healthcare Intro to Law Intro to Software Lifetime Sports Marketing Principles Mythology Psychology SAT Prep Sociology Spanish I Spanish II Spanish III Sports in US Society Study Skills I Study Skills II Study Skills III Visual Arts/Comp I Web Design
Math	Science	
AMDM Statistical Reasoning Pre-Calculus H. Pre- Calculus Technical College Readiness Advanced Algebra H. Advanced Algebra Geometry H. Geometry Algebra: Concepts & Connections H. Algebra Advanced Financial Algebra Foundations of Algebra SAT Prep	Anatomy and Physiology Forensic Science Earth Systems Environmental Science Physics H. Physics Chemistry H. Chemistry Physical Science Biology H. Biology	
AP Courses	Face to Face Electives	
All AP courses are on Georgia Virtual School	Intro to Healthcare Essentials of Healthcare	

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APPLICATION PROCESS

Parents/guardians interested in enrolling their student in PVA must complete an online application in Infinite Campus Parent Portal during the open registration window prior to each school year. After the registration window has closed, the parent/guardian will be contacted regarding admission status. Parents/guardians are required to re-apply for PVA prior to each school year.

PROGRAM MODEL

PVA is designed to utilize current technology, live virtual instruction, online resources/software, and teacher support.

Students are expected to maintain 100% attendance while in PVA as measured by daily course logins to each course. Students are granted off-site access to the curriculum but are not able to access live instruction outside of the scheduled sessions. Live instructional lessons are recorded and placed within the Canvas course. Pace and academic progress are monitored by the virtual teacher. Students who do not progress adequately in both their pace and their academic progress may be removed from PVA and returned to the face-to-face learning experience.

The following supports will be offered:

- a. Direct video-based support and instruction
- b. Access to web conferencing and tutoring
- c. Differentiated instruction
- d. Full access to internet-based services and software

Students should:

- a. Be able to remain on-pace and pass all classes
- b. Have access to adequate technology and internet access from home
- c. Have the ability to communicate via e-mail and video conferencing
- d. Attend scheduled video conferencing sessions (optional if passing, but required if failing)

Please note that online learning requires a highly motivated student with good home support. Parents/guardians should plan to regularly monitor their child's progress and participation. It is recommended that parents/guardians provide a quiet learning environment with limited distractions and continually monitor their child's engagement and on-task behavior.

Virtual students will attend their districted high school when taking a local, district, and/or state assessment. The number and frequency of assessments depends on the course. PVA parents/guardians are responsible for transportation to/from the physical locations.

Definition of Plagiarism:

Plagiarism in an academic setting occurs when a student uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common knowledge) material without crediting the original author. There are two types of plagiarism:

- **Deliberate Plagiarism:** The most serious offense, involves a deliberate attempt on the part of a student to pass off as his own the writing or ideas of another person (student, parent, published or unpublished author, et al). Straight copying or slight paraphrasing of a source that the student attempts to conceal.
- **Unintentional Plagiarism:** Carelessly or inadequately citing ideas and words borrowed from another source.

Both types of plagiarism are serious violations of the principles of academic integrity. The parents/guardians of students should support their child's efforts through monitoring and guidance; however, parents/guardians should avoid giving their child answers, completing assignments for their child, typing written responses for their child, overly editing the writing of their child, or otherwise doing anything that falsifies the child's mastery of the standards.

Penalties for Plagiarism:

- A student who has unintentionally plagiarized will not receive a grade until citation errors are corrected. Should a student fail to resubmit the paper with corrections within five school days, he will receive a grade of zero. A pattern of documentation error will be considered as intentional.
- A student who intentionally plagiarizes will receive zero credit for the assignment and will be subject to a disciplinary referral. Recovery will not be given.
- A student who allows another student to copy his or her paper or assists in the act of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary action.
- A student who allows someone else to complete his/her virtual assignments or assessments will be subject to disciplinary action and may be dismissed from PVA.

POLICY ON USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

PVA recognizes the growing power of AI in education. AI can enhance students' learning by providing valuable support and guidance. However, it is crucial to acknowledge AI generated content submitted by students in order to maintain academic integrity.

AI Tools such as ChatGPT can be utilized for self-learning, brainstorming, and gaining inspiration for course assignments. **However, directly duplicating AI-generated content as one's own work is an act of plagiarism and will be addressed as such.**

PVA teachers reserve the right to use AI detection tools on assignments submitted by students. If student work is flagged by an AI detector or the teacher has substantial cause to suspect misuse of AI, the teacher will:

- 1) Assign a grade of zero with a brief explanation and request that the student set up a time to discuss the submission in question no later than 5 school days past the due date.
- 2) Send a follow up email to the student and parent informing them of feedback and deadline.
- 3) If the student does not follow up by the assigned deadline, the zero can remain.

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- 4) If student follows up, the teacher will speak with the student about appropriate vs. inappropriate AI use/misuse and can give the student a second attempt or alternate assignment.
- 5) Notify the student and parent that future AI misuse will result in a zero with no re-do option.

PVA would also like to provide some responsible guidelines for how AI can be used by students:

Do:

- Use AI to enhance your learning experience, understanding of content, and resolve uncertainty.
- Utilize AI for comprehension and clarity, not for shortcutting.
- Use AI to inspire creativity and help you explore new ideas and other sources related to the subject matter.
- Seek assistance in structuring an assignment, such as an essay, using AI.
- Utilize AI to gain knowledge and develop skills, instead of simple task completion.
- Request examples that will help you better understand the content or assignment.

Don't:

- Use AI to generate an entire essay, thesis statement, or other assignment and submit as your own work.
- Seek exact responses to writing prompts or other assignments and submit as your own work.
- Use AI to generate or plagiarize content without proper attribution.
- Rely solely on AI for information. Always verify information and sources.
- Become overdependent on information provided by AI or to generate ideas to complete tasks.

While there are many other instances of appropriate use of AI for students, following these basic guidelines can help ensure the ethical and responsible use of AI in your academic pursuits.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the program called?

Paulding Virtual Academy (PVA)

2. Why did the district decide to develop PVA?

PCSD recognizes the changing educational landscape and the increasing use of technology to supplement and/or provide education. The district also recognizes that student learning styles vary and that the brick and mortar style of education may not maximize the potential of all students. Some students may wish to accelerate academics and participate in dual enrollment. Other students may find the regular school building overwhelming and thereby find it difficult to focus. PVA is designed to serve all students from the most academically challenged student to the scholar.

3. Will there be certified teachers in the program?

All PVA teachers are state-certified veteran teachers hired by the Paulding County School District who have demonstrated exemplary skills in online teaching and learning. Each teacher has also received additional teaching endorsements in online teaching and learning, and in teaching exceptional children.

4. How many students can participate in the program?

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

5. Can homeschool students participate in the program?

Homeschool students should register as a student of the Paulding County School District to participate in PVA. Students will then be considered students of their districted school for all extra-curricular activities. New students to Paulding who register after the PVA registration window has closed will need to apply for hardship into PVA.

Paulding Virtual Academy

6. Will transportation be provided?

Transportation will not be provided.

7. Can students also be in the dual enrollment program?

Dual enrollment is a major component of the PVA program. All students will be strongly encouraged and guided towards participation in dual enrollment.

8. Can students participate in all activities at their home school?

Yes, in fact it is encouraged. Students who participate in PVA are considered full members of their districted school and may participate in all clubs, sports, proms, and special events at the districted school. Please note that students maintain the eligibility at the districted school they have at the time of enrollment into PVA. For example, a student that is districted for Hiram High School cannot play for East Paulding High School. The student must play for Hiram High School. Student eligibility remains as it was when the student enters PVA.

9. Do students maintain athletic eligibility?

Yes, all eligibility remains intact.

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

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

11. 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.

12. Can students withdraw from PVA and return to their districted school in person?

Yes, but transfers from PVA to the districted school will occur only at the end of each school year.

13. When are students committed to attending PVA and unable to return to their districted school?

The registration window opens in March and the Opt-Out window is in May. Students are committed to PVA at the close of the Opt-Out window.

14. Can students take classes at both PVA and the districted school?

Co-curricular classes are permitted (Band, Chorus, CTAE). Other coursework is completed through PVA.

15. Will students be able to take CTAE classes and elective classes?

Yes, view the course listing in this handbook.

16. Are the full range of core courses that are required for graduation offered at PVA?

Yes, we utilize a number of online resources and dual enrollment programs to provide the full range of courses required for graduation.

17. Are the courses NCAA approved regarding athletic scholarships?

Yes.

18. How often must the students physically attend PVA or their districted high school?

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

19. I have a child with an IEP that receives special education services, can my child attend PVA?

Paulding Virtual Academy

Yes, as a public school, PVA accepts students with disabilities. Enrollment in PVA 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 PVA, the Exceptional Students Education Program (ESEP) coordinator will facilitate an IEP to discuss possible amendments to the student's IEP to reflect acceptance into PVA. 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

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

Equipment: laptops, 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.

21. What supplies will PVA students need?

Most high school courses will require access to basic school supplies and the ability to print handouts.

22. What are the times during the day that a student must attend?

Students receive individualized scheduling at PVA, but typical schedules are similar to those in traditional schools, with classes occurring during 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Blocks of the school day. Students who are on-pace and passing are not required, but are encouraged, to attend live sessions. However, all students must attend live lessons for courses they are failing and must successfully submit at least one assignment daily in Canvas, or they will be considered absent that day.

23. Do I need to have internet for my student to enroll?

Yes, it is a requirement of the program that parents provide internet for their PVA students.