Powell County Academy
Student Handbook 2026-27



POWELL COUNTY ACADEMY MISSION

Our mission is to empower every student to succeed by balancing emotional resilience and personal passion with academic growth in a flexible learning community designed for the individual.

POWELL COUNTY ACADEMY VISION

Our vision is to develop transformative relationships that build student confidence, self-esteem, and lasting motivation toward learning, self-worth, and others.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Powell County Academy does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the educational programs or activities that it operates, and is required by Title IX of the educational amendments of 1972 (P.L. 92-318), not to discriminate in such a manner. Further, the board of education does not discriminate on the basis of handicap, in treatment, admission or access to, or employment, in programs or activities as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-112), as amended, Section 504, nor does the board of education discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, as required by the Title VI, of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, nor does the board of education discriminate on the basis of age, religion, or marital status, in the educational programs or activities it operates. Any concerns can be addressed to the affirmative action officer at the board of education or to: U.S. Dept. of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 3535 Market Street, Rm 6300, Philadelphia, PA 19104-332

Table of Contents

General Information…… page 4
- Contact Information…… page 4
- Administration…… page 4
- School Calendar…… page 4
- Closings and Delays…… page 4
- Parent Volunteers…… page 4
- Pest Management…… page 4
- Medication…… page 5
- Bathroom Breaks…… page 5

Length of Stay…… page 5
Academics…… page 5
- Curriculum…… page 5
- Grading…… page 6
  - No Pass No Drive KRS…… page 6

Attendance…… page 6
Transportation…… page 6
Student Code of Conduct…… page 6
- Expectations…… page 6
  - Possession/ Use of Tobacco Products…… page 7
- Prohibited Items …… page 7
- Searches…… page 8

Dress Code…… page 8
Discipline Matrix…… page 10
Security…… page 11
Parent/Guardian Expectations…… page 11
Extra-Curricular Activities …… page 11
Dropout Prevention…… page 11
Graduation Requirements …… page 13

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact Information
Powell County Academy
691 Breckenridge St.
Stanton, KY 40380
606-663-3505 phone

Administration
Dean of Students - Rick Skidmore
Teacher - Christopher Helvey
Special Education Teacher - Zachary Knox
Instructional Assistant - Sheila Elam

School Calendar
*Please see powell.kyschools.us for the most current school calendar

Closings and Delays
When inclement weather or any other incident causes school to be closed

Announcements regarding the close of school will be made over the following stations: WSKV-104.9, Lexington Channels 18, 27, and 36.

Those who have signed up for ParentSquare calls/ texts/emails will receive notification of school closures via this method as well.

If school is delayed by one or two hours, an announcement will be made. An NTI day is the same for all students.

Parent Volunteers
All volunteers must complete a volunteer application (available on the district website under the employment tab) and pass a criminal background check.

Pest Management
To provide a clean and healthy environment at PCA, we periodically undergo inspections for unwanted pests. When a problem exists, our contracted pest management personnel may use chemical sprays to rid our school of any unwanted pests. Our school will provide any parent or student with written notification before the use of any chemicals. If you would like to receive a notification, please send a written request that includes your mailing address to the address below:

Powell County Schools
Pest Management Request
Attention: Doug Brewer
40 Bruen Ave
Stanton, KY 40380

Medication
Under procedures developed by the superintendent, a student may be permitted to carry medication that has been prescribed or ordered by a physician to stay with the pupil due to a pressing medical need. Provided the parent/guardian and physician file a completed authorization form each year as required by law, a student under treatment for asthma shall be permitted to self-administer medication.

Students shall not share any prescription or over-the-counter medication with another student. Each year, the district shall notify students in writing of this prohibition and that violations shall result in appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion.

Bathrooms
Students will be allowed to use restrooms based on teacher policy.

Breakfast/Lunch
Breakfast and lunch will be delivered to and eaten at PCA

LENGTH OF STAY

- PCA and the assigning school will determine length of stay on an individual basis, but a minimum of 20 to 30 days may be expected.
- If a student is referred for non-discipline issues, such as truancy or student/school agreement and continues or begins to have an unreasonable amount of absences, PCA or the referring school may request the student return to PCMS or PCHS.

ACADEMICS

Curriculum

- **Edmentum** is the educational program for all core classes, credit recovery, and electives. Students are expected to maintain progress to earn the credit while enrolled. Students are assigned a Chromebook to work on assignments, and students and/or parents will be responsible for any damage incurred to school technology.
- Coursework can also be assigned and completed without the assistance of technology; (e.g. Edmentum or project assignments can be assigned and completed using traditional methods such as paper and pencil).
- Students will also work on enrichment and project based assignments aligned to the standards. These are in addition to the work on Edmentum, but can also be incorporated into those assignments for substitution credit per the teacher.

Grading

- Grading will be taken from Edmentum and by classroom assignments
- All teachers at PCA will use the following grading scale for all assignments. Bonus work may be assigned at the discretion of each teacher.
  100 – 90 = A
  89 – 80 = B
  79 – 70 = C
  69 – 60 = D
  59 – Below = F

- **KRS 159.051 -** The "No Pass/No Drive" statute results in the denial or revocation of a student's driver's license for academic deficiency, or dropping out of school as a result of excessive or unexcused absences. Academic deficiency is defined as a student who does not have passing grades in at least four courses, or the equivalent of four courses, in the preceding semester.
- Because Powell County Academy has 7 classes in a day, a student must pass a minimum of 5 of their classes to be able to keep their driver's license.

ATTENDANCE

- Refer to the District Code of Acceptable Behavior for Specific Attendance and Truancy Guidelines, located on the District Home Page Electronically
- Students must report before 8:10 or they will be counted tardy.
- Dismissal is 3:10 for bus, 3:11 for walkers/riders.
- Riders may be dropped off or picked up at PCA
- Students cannot leave school grounds without permission.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus

- Transportation will be provided to and from Powell County High School.
- School bus policies apply; any write-ups will result in disciplinary action.
- If making a change in bus transportation a note and phone verification must be obtained before a note will be given.

Vehicles

- Students enrolled in PCA are not permitted to have vehicles on school property

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Expectations

In order to provide an environment that fosters student achievement, the faculty needs the help and cooperation of students, parents/guardians, the community, and the local board of education in establishing proper conditions for learning. All students at Powell County Academy are expected to behave in a manner that creates a positive school environment. Rules are not made to impose on students' rights; rules are made to protect all students' rights in the school. All teachers, staff, and students should be

respectful to each other at all times. Together, we can make our school a school that we are all proud of. The primary goal of the faculty and staff of Powell County Academy is to provide every student with the opportunities to achieve their life goals, even if no goals have yet been established. The faculty and staff will administer the discipline code in a firm, fair, and consistent manner.

- Students shall not be permitted to use/or have possession of any tobacco product, alternative nicotine product, or vapor product as defined in the KRS 438.305 on property owned, leased, or operated by the Board, inside board-owned vehicles, on the way to and from school, or during school-sponsored trips and activities. Evidence-based, age-appropriate nicotine prevention and cessation material shall be distributed to all students at the beginning of each school year, and students shall have access to the material throughout the school year. Also, this material will be provided each time a student is caught with tobacco/vaping products. Students who violate these prohibitions while under the supervision of the school shall have the product taken. His/her parents/guardian will be called and sent home.
- Students will keep disruptive behavior to a minimum both verbal and physical.
- No fighting
- Compliance with staff requests is mandatory; refusal may result in arrest or removal from school.
- Students will respect their fellow students.
- Cursing and/or sexually suggestive language will not be tolerated.
- No pornagraphic material or images on technology is allowed.

Prohibited Items

- Weapons/pocket knives of any kind
- Electronics (Phones, IPads, Tablets, MP3s, personal computers, etc.)
    - Per KRS 158.165 and board policy 09.4261, students shall not use a personal telecommunications device during instructional time.
- Illicit drugs/Controlled Substances
- Tobacco/Nicotine Products of any kind
- Over the counter and prescribed drugs must be turned into PCA Dean of Students along with completed medicine permission form and a doctor's authorization.
- Staff retains the right to add to this list.

Searches

Students will be searched and wanded each morning which may consist of turned out pockets, search of socks, shoes, jackets, and purses and/or other bags. Students may be searched at any time that they are suspected of having contraband within PCA.

DRESS CODE

- Clothing or accessories with obscene language, crude pictures, or statements pertaining to alcohol, drugs, tobacco, racial comments, or sex. This includes implied meaning.
- Clothing that has controversial phrases, pictures, or symbols cannot be displayed or worn at school. This includes sexual innuendo phrases, profanity, and racially charged clothing such as the KKK, swastika, white supremacy, black supremacy, etc.
- Clothing that has advertisement logos for alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or sex will not be allowed (this includes NASCAR shirts that advertise alcohol and/or tobacco, Hooters clothing, Playgirl clothing, Hustler clothing, Playboy clothing, etc).
- Bandanas, sunglasses (unless prescribed by a doctor and a note is available), or extremely unusual non-prescription contacts are not to be brought into the building or worn in the building. Bandanas cannot be worn as headbands or wraps. Special circumstances will be made for students undergoing medical treatments that require head wraps.
- Tops must meet the skirts, trousers, or pants being worn (no crop tops).
- Tank tops may not show bra straps or undergarments at all. Mesh shirts, see-through shirts, tube tops, halter-tops, muscle shirts, and shirts with exposed sides cannot be worn.
- All shirts must meet the pants and show no midriff or back when the arms are raised. The administration suggests that students wear t-shirts or similar undershirts under clothing that may be considered borderline appropriate.
- Trench coats are not permitted.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- All shorts, skirts, and dresses must be nothing above fingertip length. This includes holes in jeans and/or shorts.
- Undergarments and underwear cannot be visible or exposed at any time and shall be covered by appropriate clothing. This includes sagging jeans.
- No oversized low-riding pants will be permitted. This means NO SAGGING. All pants should be worn at the waist level.
- No chains are to be attached to any clothing items. No spiked bracelets or chains are allowed in the building, including chains on billfolds, book bags, or purses.
- Clothing, specifically pants, with holes anywhere above the finger tips cannot be worn.
- Hoodies are permitted, but the hood cannot be worn on the student's head.
- No backpacks, if brought they will be thoroughly searched and kept in office, same for large purses.
- Students may dress-out for physically active sessions associated with breaks or outdoor activities. However, staff can determine if active wear is not appropriate.

PCA Discipline Code of Conduct (Page 1 of 2)

The matrix below identifies levels of misconduct, but the examples given are not exhaustive. Therefore, when misconduct occurs that is not identified in the matrix, administration will determine the severity level according to the descriptions provided in the left colum and administer discipline accordingly.

Powell County Academy Discipline Code of Conduct		
LEVEL OF MISCONDUCT	**EXAMPLES**	**PROCEDURES/CONSEQUENCES**
Cell Phone & Electronic Use Cell phones and other electronic devices are prohibited according to school policy and per HB 208. Chromebooks are assigned by the school	Chromebooks will be monitored by IT staff and accounts will be suspended if AUP is violated. This means you are responsible for your assigned Chromebook and login.	• 1st Offense- Conference and RCD response • 2nd Offense-1 Day of room restriction (RR) • 3rd Offense-2 Days of room restriction (RR) • 4th Offense-1 day suspension • 5th Offense- Becomes a Measure Three Misbehavior
LEVEL ONE: Minor Misbehavior **3 violations in one day**	• Classroom Disruption • Failure to Follow Instructions/Rules • Disrespect • Minor profanity • Sleeping • Dress Code • Horseplay w/out injury or contact • Cheating/Plagiarism	• 1st Offense- Conference and RCD response • 2nd Offense-1 Day of room restriction (RR) • 3rd Offense-2 Days of room restriction (RR) • 4th Offense-1 day suspension • 5th Offense- Becomes a Measure Three Misbehavior
LEVEL TWO: Misbehavior whose seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school	• Repeated Measure One misbehavior (After 3) • Use and/or Possession of Tobacco or Nicotine Products • Gambling • Failure to Attend or Leaving Class • Defiant Behavior • Excessive Profanity • Vulgar Behavior • Damage to Property of Others • Threats to Others • Inappropriate materials • Horseplay	• 1st Offense-3 Days of room restriction (RR) • 2nd Offense-1 day suspended and made up • 3rd Offense- 3 days suspended and made up • 4th Offense- Becomes a Measure Three Misbehavior

PCA Discipline Code of Conduct (Page 2 of 2)

Powell County Academy Discipline Code of Conduct		
MEASURE OF MISCONDUCT	**EXAMPLES**	**PROCEDURES/CONSEQUENCES**
LEVEL THREE: Acts directed against persons or property that do not seriously endanger the health or safety of others in the school.	• Terroristic Threatening • Leaving School Grounds without permission • Skipping School • Fighting • Vandalism • Theft • Use of firecrackers, smoke bombs, or paintballs	**Fighting Students will be removed from school (3 Days RR, 3 Days Suspension)** **Potential Consequences:** • RR • Suspension • Juvenile Court Referral • In-School Detention may be used in combination with other consequences • Other consequences as determined by administration
LEVEL FOUR: Acts which result in violence to another person or property, or which pose a direct threat to the safety of others in the school.	• Repeated Measure Three Misbehavior • Possession, Use or Transfer of Dangerous Weapons • Crimes against property/persons • Repetitive Suspensions • Activating False Fire Alarms • Intimidation of Staff or Other Students • Damage to Property Owned by Staff • Possession/Furnishing/Selling or Use of Drugs, Alcohol, or any mind-altering substances	**Potential Consequences** • Suspension with referral to law enforcement • Immediate Automatic Suspension if drugs are found. Ask for no diversion on court referrals. • Referral for Expulsion
School Bus Misbehaviors will be handled according to the bus conduct policy for Powell County Schools.		
Violations of Powell County School Board Policy will follow discipline guidelines set forth in the student handbook.		

SECURITY

- Video cameras are in the hallways and record all activities and will be referred to as needed.
- Doors Remain locked at all times
- Visitors must sign-in

PARENT/GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS

- Check on daughter/son progress by calling or stopping by periodically; this sends your child the message you care and are interested in their education.
- Call the Dean of Students (606-663-3505) about any concerns you may have about your child or if you have any other information you think we should know.
- Your child's education is a 3-way partnership between her/him, PCA, and the parent. If we are to succeed all of us must do our part.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students are not allowed to be on PCMS or PCHS school grounds unless they have permission from PCA Dean of Students and home school principal.

DROPOUT PREVENTION

A team approach will be used in the efforts of the school and district to assist students in making a positive decision to stay in school and earn a diploma. The dean of students, teachers, the director of pupil personnel, and the special education director will all play a role in dropout prevention.

- After review of student data, including but not limited to the Persistence to Graduation Report, or after a student reports s/he is interested in dropping out of school, the dean of students will:
    - meet with the student and his/her parent at school,
    - meet with the student and his/her parent at his/her home, or
    - meet at another agreed-upon location.
- Complete the Dropout-Prevention summary sheet (08.141 AP.2)
- Discuss the student's problems/issues at/with school.
- Review students' goals and aspirations.
- Review ILP.
- Review attendance and any other pertinent information.
- Review special needs – bring the special education director or teacher into the discussion if appropriate.
- Problem solve, suggest alternatives, and document conversation.
- Discuss Option A – Student remains at school to earn a high school diploma.
    - Complete the following:
        - A contract for student success that includes attendance, effort, and

additional opportunities the student may want to access.
- Courses needed for graduating with a Powell County High School diploma;
- Put supports in place to ensure student success.
- Make adjustments as needed.
- Celebrate small steps toward student success; and

- Schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss progress with the student and the parent.

ONCE ABOVE STEPS ARE COMPLETED, a copy of the Drop-Out Prevention summary sheet, as well as any contracts created are scanned and emailed to the director of pupil personnel. Original forms will be filed in the dean of students' office.

- If the student and/or parent is not convinced that the student should remain in school, call the central office and arrange an appointment for the student and his/her parents to meet with the director of pupil personnel and/or the director of special education. During this meeting, the DPP or special education director will:
  - Review possible consequences of dropping out, ie, hardship in obtaining employment, loss of credits if the student decides to return at a later date, loss of permit or license, length of time that must pass before working towards GED, etc..
  - Provide a dropout brochure that includes possible educational resources,
  - Ask if the student and parent want any additional information or are now interested in taking advantage of Option A or Option B. If the student or parent decides to follow one of the options, congratulate them and follow the steps listed with the selected option, and then
  - Proceed to the next step if the student and parent still wish to drop out.
- Complete state and district dropout forms. Keep originals, and scan and email the dropout prevention worksheet and state and district dropout forms to the administrator meeting with the student and his/her parents.
- Following a conference with the administration, if a student and/or parent cannot be convinced or encouraged to take advantage of options offered by the school or other suggestions for finishing high school, sign the form and scan and email documents back to the high school guidance office staff and principal. The DPP will withdraw the student with a W25 withdrawal code, and it is only at this time that the student is considered to have dropped out of school. Throughout the time a student is considering dropping out of school, it is expected that the student attends school daily. Dropping out of school is a serious decision and should not be made quickly or taken lightly. Should a student choose not to attend school while waiting for meetings to occur or choose not to attend meetings, the student and/or parent should expect the truancy laws to be enforced and understand that charges in the courts are possible.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Twenty-two (22) PCA Credits Required by Each Student to Graduate

Twenty-four (24) PCHS Credits Required by Each Student to Graduate

General Diploma Requirements

Content Area	Credits Required	Specific Course Names
Language Arts	4	English I, II, III, IV
Math	4	Algebra 1, Geometry, 2 Additional
Social Studies	3	World Civ, Int SS, US History
Science	3	Int Science, Biology, Chemistry
Health and Physical Education	1	Health ½, Physical Education½
Humanities	1	
Electives	6-8	PCA/PCHS