Powell County Virtual Learning 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 Virtual Learning 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

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact Information
Powell County Virtual Learning Academy
691 Breckenridge St.
Stanton, KY 40380
606-663-3300 phone
606-663-3303 fax

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, virtual students do not have to work on these days.

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. Virtual students should follow the delay as scheduled.

An NTI day is the same for all students. Virtual students should work on assignments on these days also.

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 PCVLA, 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.

AGREEMENT FOR ELIGIBILITY

- Eligibility for virtual enrollment requires that the student has access to a computer capable of interfacing with the curriculum and the student has reliable internet service.
- Student must be self-guided, self-paced, and able to work **independently** to maintain pacing and passing grades on a weekly basis.
- Student must participate in all testing
- Student must adhere to the Acceptable Use for Technology Policy
- Students must abide by all rules and regulations outlined in the Powell County Student Code of Acceptable Behavior
- Students must understand and abide by the agreements in the PCA/PCVLA Handbooks (Will be updated by 8/11/26)
- If a student is struggling with any of the above considerations, then the student/parent/guardian must take the initiative to reach out to the academy for assistance.
- If needs cannot be met through communication with PCA / PCVLA staff, then students may be removed from the virtual program and enrolled in their traditional school where their needs can be better accommodated.

STUDENT SERVICES

Summer School
If money permits, ten days of summer school will be offered for students who have failed a course required for graduation. Students with a grade below forty-five percent (45%) in a class will not be eligible to participate in summer school for that class. Summer school students will be able to raise their grades to passing, which is a D, or

60%. Summer school begins around the first week we are out of school and typically runs three weeks. Summer school is from 9:00-1:00 each day. Students may recover as many as three credits during the summer to keep them on track to graduate. All credit recovery will either be completed through online courses on the school network or through assigned work from the summer school teacher.

Attendance: students are expected to attend daily until work is completed.

Grading: students must pass the assigned credit recovery course (this includes the initial assessment and all submissions) with a 60% D or better to attain credit for the class. Students may only receive a 60% D for the class on their transcript.

Discipline: Students must follow the Powell County High School Code of Conduct at all times.

Parent Teacher Conferences
Parents/ Guardians and teachers are both encouraged to schedule conferences when concerns arise. The parent/guardian can set up a parent-teacher-student conference by calling Rick Skidmore at 663-3300 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or contacting the child's teacher via email. Conferences will be held face-to-face when possible, but can also be virtual in nature if both the teacher and guardian agree.

No Pass/ No Drive 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 Virtual Learning 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.
Due to the nature of the virtual program, attendance is not taken, so that part of the statute will not be used.

Dropout Prevention Procedures
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.

SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS/ PRIVILEGES

Conduct at School Events

All students, faculty, and staff are to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all school events and should be especially careful not to create disturbances that might negatively reflect on the good name of the school or the reputation of the student body. Students are to remember that, regardless of where they are, in the public eye, they are representatives of Powell County Virtual Learning Academy. Students should accept this responsibility with pride and conduct themselves as worthy representatives of the school. All school policies and disciplinary actions will apply to students at school-sponsored events, both home and away.

Junior/Senior Prom

Each year the junior class at Powell County High School sponsors a prom for all junior and senior students and their dates. Powell County Virtual Learning Academy students and their dates will be eligible to attend the prom*. Middle school students and the children (including babies) of PCVLA students or their dates will not be allowed to attend prom. A fee to attend prom will be charged for juniors. All students who meet any one of the following criteria will not be allowed to attend prom.

1. Must be passing 5 of 7 classes
2. Must be on pace in all classes

Also, any person who is attending the prom and does not attend Powell County Virtual Learning Academy must acquire permission from the administration. An application request to attend prom must be completed by the PCVLA student or their date if the date is not a student of Powell County High School or Powell County Virtual Learning Academy. The request must be submitted to the sponsor of the Junior and Senior Prom for approval by the administration. Students may not bring a date older than 20 years old. Students may only bring one date to the prom. Juniors must purchase a ticket for themselves and his/her date. Seniors do not have to pay for their ticket. Freshmen and sophomores enrolled at PCHS or PCVLA may attend the prom with a junior or senior escort. All students are expected to wear attire appropriate for a formal occasion. Remember that children (including babies) of students or their dates shall not attend prom. Administrative discretion may be used in extreme circumstances.

Student Dress Code

When coming into the Powell County Virtual Learning Academy for tutoring purposes, students are expected to dress in clothing appropriate for the season and for the school activity that they are attending. Clothing that is excessively revealing, extremely tight-fitting, distracting, or that causes undue attention cannot be worn. Any clothing that might be disruptive to the learning environment of a classroom cannot be worn.

Prohibited items and guidelines:

- 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 knees cannot be worn.
- Hoodies are permitted, but the hood cannot be worn on the student's head.
- Blankets, throws, shawls, quilts, etc., cannot be used during school hours.

Consequences for Dress Code Violations
The student will be asked to comply with the dress code, or they will have to leave the property.

STUDENT CODE OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

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 Virtual Learning 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 Virtual Learning 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.

Any misbehavior by a virtual student who is attending tutoring services will result in those services being discontinued for a time specified by the dean of students.

Possession/Use of Tobacco Products
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 parent/guardian will be called and sent home. If the student returns to PCVLA for tutoring, he/she will be subject to being searched.

USE/POSSESSION OF DAB PENS/THC
No student shall purchase, possess, use, be under the influence of, sell, or transfer dab pens or THC.
Any time a student has committed this offense, the following will occur each school year:

- Parents/Guardians will be notified.
- SRO will be notified.
- The student will participate in an online cessation class.

- Students will be subject to being searched each time he/she report for tutoring services at PCVLA

Electronic Device Procedures/ Expectations
Per KRS 158.165 and board policy 09.4261, students shall not use a personal telecommunications device during instructional time.

Exceptions: Individual student cases will be reviewed by an administrator for cases such as diabetic medical equipment, etc.

Responsibility: Students are solely responsible for the security and safety of their cell phones. The school is not liable for any lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

Additional Guidelines:

- Headphones and earbuds connected to electronic devices should not be visible or worn during instructional time.
- Students are still able to wear smartwatches, but are not permitted to use them for communication purposes during instructional time. If caught using it as a communication device, the previously stated consequences of this policy apply.
- Recording (audio and/or video) of teachers, staff, or other students without explicit permission is strictly prohibited.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extracurricular Eligibility
Powell County Virtual Learning Academy makes every effort to offer our students a variety of extra-curricular activities in which our students can participate. Our school offers the following extra-curricular activities: academic team, baseball, basketball, bass fishing, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, softball, track & field, and volleyball. For any student at Powell County Virtual Learning Academy to participate in any extra-curricular activities, the student must meet the following requirements:

- All students must meet proper credit requirements for each grade level based on the graduation requirements of the school. The KHSAA (Kentucky High School Athletic Association, telephone 1-859-299-5472) policy on this reads as follows: “On the first day of school, guidance counselors or other personnel [Athletic Director] should determine eligibility based on the local school districts [and SBDM council] requirements for graduation.
- Students must be passing two-thirds (2/3) of their classes at all times to be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity. To verify eligibility, the athletic director or their designee will check extra-curricular student eligibility on every Friday of the season for each extra-curricular activity which a student is involved. The eligibility will be checked using IC. The KHSAA policy on this reads as follows: “On a weekly basis, a student shall also be passing [cumulatively for the credit period] at least … the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation in order to be eligible to participate in athletics during the next seven

day period (Monday through Sunday) and through the next opportunity to examine grades in this manner. No special tests or recitations are to be given for the purpose of making the student eligible."

- All student athletes enrolled in PCVLA must attend tutoring services for no less than one hour on game days and must be on pace in all classes to play.

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Graduation Requirements

Twenty-two (22) - Twenty-four (24) Credits Required by Each Student to Graduate

Dual Credit

Regional universities will offer dual credit courses provided the student qualifies academically. Dual Credit courses allow students the opportunity to receive college credit and high school credit simultaneously. Any student enrolled in a dual credit course will receive a weighted GPA for that course. Students must meet the requirements listed in the chart below for each specific dual credit course offered at PCHS.

Dual Credit Course	ACT requirement	GPA requirement	Teacher recommendation
ENG 100	18- English	3.2	Only if ACT is 14-17
ENG 200	19- English	3.2	Only if ACT is 14-18
MAT 141 College Trigonometry	22- Math or Math 152 with C or better	3.2	No flexibility on requirements
MAT 175 College Calculus	27- Math or Math 141 & 152 with C or better	3.2	No flexibility on requirements
MAT 152 College Algebra	22- Math	3.2	Only if ACT is 17-21
MAT 123- Statistics	19- Math	3.2	Only if ACT is 14-18
PSY 110	No	3.2	No
COM 252	No	3.2	No
GEO 100	No	3.2	Yes
HUM 250	Must have passed Eng 100	3.2	Yes
BIO 112/113	16- Science	3.2	Yes

*Unless noted, teacher recommendation must be by a Powell County High School teacher of the same content area the student wants to take the dual credit course in (an example would be a sophomore math teacher recommending a student to take a junior-level dual credit math course).

*Administration reserves the right to approve students' enrollment into dual credit courses conditionally (an example would be a student transferring in from another school or a student not having taken the ACT at the time of enrollment application).

General Diploma Requirements

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

PCVLA will recognize different levels of academic achievement based on the following:
Summa Cum Laude: GPA greater than 4.0
Magna Cum Laude: GPA 3.7 – 4.0
Cum Laude: 3.5 – 3.69

Teal Cord – Post-secondary ready

Grading
All teachers at PCVLA 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

Grading Policy
PCVLA will follow the grading policy approved by the PCHS SBDM Council: