



# BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTAL Q&A

This document presents a list of common questions that may not be addressed in the materials provided so far relating to the school district's back-to-school plan and the options available. The district is providing this supplemental Q&A to reach as many parents as possible as quickly as possible. The information in this document may be updated as needed. The date in the header at the top of the page will reflect the most recent update.

The web site linked below provides useful information about both instructional options. Please note that Virtual Academy handbooks for each level have been added to the web page, as well as information for parents of students with special needs. If you are interested in the virtual option, please read the handbook for your grade level carefully as it features its own Q&A and will have answers to many questions. <https://tinyurl.com/pcsdbacktoschool>

**OPTION 1:** In-person instruction at re-opened schools beginning Aug. 3, 2020

**OPTION 2:** Online instruction through the Paulding Virtual Academies beginning Aug. 3, 2020

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>Will students in Advanced or Honors classes be able to take equivalent courses in the middle school virtual program, or will it be a general curriculum for all students?</b>	Advanced, accelerated, and honors classes will be available for qualifying middle school students.
<b>Will the Paulding Virtual High Academy offer Honors and AP classes?</b>	Honors and AP courses are available to students at the Paulding Virtual High Academy. Once you are enrolled in Paulding Virtual High Academy, a representative from PVHA will assist you in the scheduling process which will review your course options and decisions for the Fall Semester.
<b>If my child is in one of the district's high school magnet programs, will they remain in the magnet program if we choose the virtual option?</b>	Magnet program courses will not be available through Paulding Virtual Academy. However, if you are a Magnet student who chooses to attend the Virtual Academy, you are eligible to return to the Magnet.
<b>If my child is enrolled in a school of choice, will they be able to stay in that school of choice if they opt to return to in-person instruction following the first semester?</b>	Yes, if you choose to return to face-to-face instruction following the first semester, you are eligible to return to the school you were attending prior to virtual enrollment.
<b>Will students be socially distanced in classrooms and on school buses?</b>	Schools will employ social distancing as it is feasible and practical. While the district will encourage students, teachers and bus drivers to wear masks, in most cases it will not be possible to enforce social distancing in classrooms or on school buses unless it is a class or a bus with fewer students.

<p><b>When are open houses, and how will they work?</b></p>	<p>Information about Open Houses is available on the school district web site, or you can download the informational document <a href="#">by clicking here</a>. (Updated 7/15)</p>
<p><b>Can students switch to the virtual program if the in-person instruction doesn't work out, and vice versa?</b></p>	<p>No, having students switch back and forth between the in-person and virtual programs would create logistical and staffing issues. Students who register for the virtual program are committing to one semester. However, beginning August 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a one-time 10-day window where parents may withdraw their student from the virtual program and enroll them for in-person instruction at their school.</p>
<p><b>Will there be an after-school program for elementary students, i.e., Learning Bridge?</b></p>	<p>Yes, Learning Bridge is currently registering students. Please visit <a href="https://learningbridgepaulding.com/">https://learningbridgepaulding.com/</a> for cost and registration information. Learning Bridge is currently updating their reopening protocols according to guidance from Georgia's Bright From the Start, the state department that licenses and monitors Georgia daycares. All Learning Bridge safety updates and protocols will be posted directly to <a href="#">their company website</a>.</p>
<p><b>Will the school district reconsider optional masks for students and staff and make them mandatory?</b></p>	<p>The school district recognizes that wearing a face mask is a personal choice for families and, therefore, will not mandate that masks be worn. However, the school district does strongly encourage that all students and staff wear masks. Should the wearing of masks be mandated by local, state or federal requirement, the school district will follow that direction.</p>
<p><b>Will students in the virtual program be required to physically visit their school to complete academic tasks or take assessments?</b></p>	<p>In some cases, students may be asked to physically visit the school to complete certain academic tasks or take assessments. If parents/students object to this requirement, the school will work with the student to find an alternate solution. In the case of standardized assessments, please note that the Georgia Department of Education has filed a request with the federal DOE to exempt all Georgia students from standardized tests this school year. That request has not yet been approved.</p>
<p><b>Will students with special needs and an IEP receive instruction to meet their needs under the virtual option?</b></p>	<p>Yes. 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. Please read the document for parents of students with special needs here: <a href="http://www.tinyurl.com/pcsdbacktoschool">www.tinyurl.com/pcsdbacktoschool</a></p>
<p><b>Can middle school students who choose the virtual option participate in band or chorus classes?</b></p>	<p>No, students who wish to take band or chorus classes must opt for the in-person instruction option as these classes will not be available under the virtual option.</p>

NEW QUESTIONS	
<b>Is the school district considering pushing back the start of school?</b>	No, the first day of school remains August 3, 2020. (Added 7/13)
<b>What will happen if there is a confirmed case in a student or staff member?</b>	The school district will work closely with the Department of Public Health and will handle each situation on a case-by-case basis. The district's response may vary due to the facts and circumstances of each case. Parents will be informed of any confirmed case in a school. (Added 7/13)
<b>Will the school district's attendance policy change?</b>	Yes, the school district will take a more flexible stance with attendance this school year because it is extremely important that any student who is not feeling well and is exhibiting fever or other symptoms <i>stay home from school</i> . For that reason, PCSD schools will not be offering attendance incentives this school year. (Added 7/13)
<b>As the parent of an elementary student, if I choose the virtual option how much time will be spent at the computer each day?</b>	Elementary students enrolled in PVEA will be taught live, interactive, videocast lessons between the hours of 8:00 AM and 2:30 PM just like their peers who choose the option for in-person instruction. Live lessons and instructional support will be video cast and interactive, so students must be online to attend the live lessons (ex., Zoom meetings). However, they will not be sitting in live lessons all day. The daily schedule of the live lessons will be determined by each teacher and communicated to parents in advance.  When not attending the live video cast lessons, students will have independent classwork and assignments to complete on their own time. Parents can determine the other hours of the day when their children complete independent work. Just like the face-to-face classrooms, students will have a mixture of whole group lessons, small group support with the teacher, independent classwork, independent reading, activities, and assessments. Elementary parents can expect their children to participate in scheduled, live lessons and unscheduled independent classwork for a total of 4-5 hours each school day. (Added 7/13)
<b>Will my elementary gifted student receive gifted services (Venture) if I choose the virtual back to school option?</b>	Yes, gifted services will be provided to students who have chosen the virtual back to school option. (Added 7/13)
<b>If I missed the July 13 deadline to enroll my student in the Virtual Option, is there still a way to enroll them?</b>	If you missed the deadline to apply for one of the Paulding Virtual Academies, you should plan to send your student to school on August 3 <sup>rd</sup> under the In-Person Instruction Option. However, you may contact your school front office to request that your student be placed on a waiting list for a transfer to the Virtual Option. Waiting list transfer requests will be granted only if additional

	<p>staffing becomes available to accommodate additional students at the Virtual Academies. (Added 7/15)</p>
<p><b>Where can I find information about my child's bus, and where can I download the Here Comes the Bus app for my phone?</b></p>	<p>Information about your child's bus can be found on the Transportation web site <a href="#">by clicking here</a>. On this web page you will find the School / Bus Stop Locator, as well as instructions for how to download the Here Comes the Bus app. We recommend all parents download Here Comes the Bus as it is a very useful tool for keeping track of your child's bus in real time. You can set up an account now and the app will become active when the buses begin transporting students on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Added 7/17)</p>