



PARMA VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Why was PVLA information released prior to the reopening plan?

A. We released the PVLA Reservation Form on July 6 for the families who knew that they wanted to pursue a virtual option regardless of the format of traditional schooling we implement this fall. We believe that PCSD offers the best curriculum taught by the best teachers so creating an alternative to our physical school buildings was an easy decision.

Q. Will students be allowed to participate in all extracurriculars if they are enrolled in PVLA?

A. Yes, students will be able to participate in all extracurriculars at their respective schools (assigned home school). Importantly, this does not apply to courses for credit such as Choir, Band, and Orchestra; students who choose to participate in these programs must attend their traditional school.

Q. Will families be allowed to opt out of PVLA once the details for the start of the school year are released?

A. Yes, we recognize that with each day we find new developments with the novel coronavirus pandemic and that family situations can change dramatically in a matter of days. With that said, we kindly ask that families take time to discern what is the best option before committing to an option. We will be basing programming (classes) and staffing off of the numbers of students/families that fill out the PVLA Reservation Form.

Please see this timeline:

July 16: PCSD introduces planned format for school this fall

July 16-August 3: Families "lock in" to their chosen format (PVLA or Traditional).

Q. How will PCSD handle attendance for PVLA?

A. The Ohio Department of Education is releasing guidelines this week regarding how attendance will be handled.

Q. Will families be allowed to switch to PVLA if they start the year in a building, but decide the virtual academy is a better option?

A. Yes, we will work to accommodate families that need to switch to PVLA. However, space for certain classes or programs may be limited at that time. Families who opt into PVLA are making a commitment to this for one semester.

Q. Is PVLA enrollment limited?

A. There is NOT a limit on the amount of students for PVLA.

Q. Will students with special needs receive accommodations, will IEP be followed?

A. Absolutely. Individualized Education Plans are legal documents that must be followed by law.

Q. Will teachers actually teach daily lessons?

A. Students will engage in learning activities daily and be able to access their teachers on a daily basis.

Q. Will students receive STEM instruction?

A. STEM is not available through PVLA. If you request a PVLA spot, we cannot hold your STEM spot.

Q. Will students in AP and Honors classes receive instruction?

A. This is dependent on how many AP and Honors students request PVLA.

Q. How can a student in CTE participate in PVLA?

A. The Career and Technical Education program is not part of Parma Virtual Learning Academy.

Q. Will there be cameras in the classrooms so students can just follow the course of the day with their assigned teachers?

A. No.

Q. If a student decides to transition back into traditional learning, are they on track for their actual classroom?

A. Yes, the curriculum is aligned for both PVLA and PCSD traditional classrooms.

Q. What happens if there is a COVID positive student in a room or multiple at the physical school building?

A. This will be addressed on July 16.

Q. What about First Step Preschool?

A. PVLA is not for preschool students. More information about preschool will be available on July 16.

Q. How will families that qualify for free and reduced lunch/breakfast get those meals?

A. We are working with our Nutrition Services Department on a plan for how PVLA students can access this service. More information will be provided after July 16.

Q. Will there be actual teachers?

A. Yes, PVLA will be taught by Parma City School District teachers.

Q. If students are enrolled in our virtual academy will they be assigned a different (elementary) teacher than they would have had otherwise or will they still be considered part of that same elementary class that they would have been in had they attended in person?

A. They would be assigned a PVLA teacher. Class rosters are not normally made until August so they would not have been assigned a teacher yet.

Q. Will students be able to switch from “in person” to the PVLA and/or from the PLVA to “in person” during the year and if so can they be guaranteed a spot at their home school?

A. Students will commit to PVLA on a semester basis.

Q. Please elaborate on the virtual instruction itself. Will students be expected to be logged on at certain times for class instruction that is live/interactive or will there simply be videos and assignments that can be completed at any time throughout the day.

A. Yes, once registration is completed, students will receive a schedule which will define when live instruction will take place. In addition to live instruction, students will complete assigned activities on a more flexible schedule.

Q. Can you please send an example of what the platform looks like (google classroom); I’m trying to gauge how interactive the instruction/assignments will Be compared to other platforms.

A. PVLA teachers will implement Google Apps for Education which includes, but is not limited to Google Classroom. Students will engage in daily learning activities. The expectation is that Google Classroom will be the starting point that allows teachers to clearly communicate expectations and learning goals with students and their guardians. In addition to Google Apps for Education, students will engage in PCSD board-approved curricular activities.

Q. Can I enroll my child in PVLA now and then decide to switch to in person after the details of in person schooling are released, before school even starts? The “I agree to reserve” part of the google form makes it sound like I’m relinquishing his in person spot by filling out the form.

A. Absolutely, but please know there is no reason to make a decision this minute. Until August 3, we will have space for any and all students who wish to be part of PVLA. Spots are not limited but we do need parents/guardians to understand that these “spots” help us to properly staff both PVLA classrooms and physical classrooms. We need an accurate number of students enrolled in both options to ensure that we are proportionately staffed.