



Polk Pre-Collegiate Academy

Reopening Plan 2020-2021

Guiding Principles

Traditional Classroom

These guiding principles are subject to change based on local and state mandates as well as updated recommendations and guidance from the Florida Department of Education, CDC and local health department.

Governor Ron DeSantis and Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Commissioner Richard Corcoran, have expressed the need for students to return to school in the fall. The FLDOE's release of the *Reopening Schools* and *CARES Act*, outlines the effect education has on our communities. Schools have been a haven for teachers to personally connect, collaborate, and create learning experiences with youth; a continuous educational journey that lays the foundation for our students' future.

For the 2020-2021 academic school year, PPCA will provide two options for students:

Traditional classroom and Distance/Remote Learning

We believe the available options will effectively meet the needs of our families. The enrolling parent must select one option by July 10th. Your choice will be in effect for the first nine weeks of school. At the end of the nine weeks, changes requests will be considered.

First day of school for students: Monday, August 24th (Revised 7/15/2020)

Last day of the nine weeks: Friday, October 22nd

After reading the options, you must select a choice. A Google Form will be sent to your student's email account for you to make your selection. The deadline to submit your response is July 10th.

Traditional Classroom

This model represents a return to the school campus and the classroom where students will interact directly with their teacher(s) and classmates.

The school day will follow the standard bell times and standard schedule that includes all the core classes and other subject areas. In short, it represents a return to the traditional school environment – with several significant changes involving enhanced health and safety precautions.

Our goal is to create an environment that provides an opportunity for students to return to the traditional school experience, while providing effective safeguards to protect the health and safety of students and staff. Course scheduling will be done to best meet the needs of our students.

Public Health Actions on Campus

- Practice safe social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Post signage and provide lessons to strongly encourage frequent hand washing and hygiene practices
- Ensure hand sanitizer is available throughout the campus and on buses
- Increase cleaning protocols throughout the campus, including disinfection, using EPA approved products, of frequently touched surfaces within the school as much as possible
- Limit group gatherings
- Require/mandatory face coverings on campus, during class changes, dismissal, etc. when social distancing is not possible
- Expect symptom screening for all staff and students
- Ensure any staff or students who exhibit symptoms are not at school or in the workplace
- Limit the use of shared materials
- Disinfecting of water fountains will occur throughout the day, however, students should bring their own water bottles to school to minimize the use and touching of water fountains. Water bottles must be labeled with the student's name.
- Traffic patterns will be implemented as possible.

Good Hygiene Practices that parents and staff should reinforce with students

- Hand Washing (at least 20 seconds)
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a flexed elbow or tissue (wash hands afterwards)
- Stay home when ill
- Teach and model creating space and avoiding unnecessary touching
- Avoid touching face, eyes, mouth, or nose
- Do not share water bottles or food with others
- Use hand sanitizer upon entry and exiting classroom
- Face coverings (masks)- How to properly fit, wear, and handle a mask

Parents/guardians should conduct their own student's screenings at home each morning before the school day and must keep their child home if ill. Staff will perform their own symptom self-screening prior to leaving work and will stay home if ill. Symptoms of COVID-19 are listed on the Center for Disease Control website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

The health, safety, and well-being of our staff and students is priority.

Screening questions may include:

- a. Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
- b. Have you had a fever (100.4° or higher) or felt feverish in the last 72 hours?
- c. Are you experiencing any new respiratory symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath?
- d. Are you experiencing any new muscle aches or chills?
- e. e. Have you experienced any new change in your sense of taste or smell?

Should the school receive confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was in a school building, the school will contact the health department immediately and follow their guidance.

Transportation and School Bus Safety

We encourage all families, who can, to personally transport their student to school, however, bus transportation is provided by Berkley Charter Elementary School. Their safety protocols include:

- Expect students wear face coverings on the bus
- Students without face coverings at the morning pick up will allowed to ride the bus to school, but they will not be allowed to return home on the bus in the afternoon without a face covering.
- Clean high touch areas between runs
- Ensure hand sanitizer is available on each bus
- Disinfect each bus thoroughly at the end of each day

Study Hall

The regular school day for PPCA students ends at 2:02 p.m. Study Hall is available from 2:05 p.m. until 2:58 p.m. Only students who need academic support from teachers should plan to stay for Study Hall. Study Hall is not designed to be a holding room. Students staying for Study Hall, and their parents, will sign a contract indicating they commit to following the rules established for Study Hall.

Student Meals

- Students will eat in classrooms or outdoors.
- Staff will package school lunches and deliver to classrooms.
- The school will use disposable food service items (e.g. utensils, dishes.)

We will have a customized plan for student traffic in hallways and common areas. Clear communication and signage will reinforce the message. The number of students allowed in the gymnasium will be significantly reduced.

Students who choose the Traditional model, but cannot participate due to COVID-19 illness or quarantine, will be moved to the PPCA Distance Classroom model until their quarantine period is completed. PPCA administration and staff will work with families regarding coursework.

The following section contains common questions regarding the reopening of school.

FAQ's

Once I choose an option, can I change my mind later?

A continuous and consistent learning environment is best for student success. For the sake of continuity, transfers from one learning option to another will occur after the completion of a nine weeks grading period. We understand that parents and students might have compelling reasons to seek a transition from one option to another; we will provide opportunities to do so when available.

Will each option offer the same classes?

To the extent possible, both options will offer the same courses.

Is the PPCA Distance/Remote classroom option identical to the distance learning we experienced during the final months of the school year?

Unlike last year's 4th Quarter distance learning, the 2020-2021 PPCA Distance/Remote classroom option will incorporate standard bell schedules, live instruction, and scheduled class times. Students will also be required to follow the school dress code.

If I choose the PPCA Distance classroom option will I need to have my own computer or laptop?

A device, with camera, and an internet connection will be necessary. When you select your option you can indicate whether you have a device and whether you have access to the internet. As we did during Distance Learning for the last months of school, PPCA will provide devices, however internet access will be the responsibility of the family.

Under PPCA Distance classroom option, will students be interacting with their teachers and classmates via Zoom? Is Zoom safe and secure?

Our school relies on Zoom and staff members are familiar with the program's safety and security features. Students are expected to utilize the safety features under the direction of their teachers as well as the school's technology and BYOD policies.

Has the start date for the 2020-2021 school year changed?

August 24th is the new start date for school. The original date was August 10th.

Will parents, guardians, and volunteers be allowed on campus?

During 1st Semester, parents, volunteers, and visitors will not be present on campus. The policy will be revisited for 2nd Semester and any updates will be shared with stakeholders.

Will students wear masks in classrooms?

Students will not be required to wear masks or cloth face coverings in class, but they are certainly encouraged to be worn in class and during class changes. Teachers may require students to wear masks in class based on social distancing limitations. Masks must be solid in color, with no writing, or a school-issued face covering.

Will students be expected to socially distance?

Students will be socially distanced to the extent possible.

What steps will be taken to ensure that surfaces are clean in classrooms.

Maintenance workers and school custodians will clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and conduct overall cleanings at the conclusion of every day. Other non-custodial staff members will be expected to do their part keeping surfaces clean, and will be provided spray bottles and microfiber cloths for additional cleaning. Teachers will have access to cleaning supplies for their classroom.

What is being done to ensure a healthy environment?

PPCA and parents will partner in educating students on the importance of hand washing, hygiene, and social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be made available in classrooms and workplaces. Facilities management will ensure proper building maintenance is efficiently performed.

What will PPCA do if a classmate or staff member is infected with COVID-19?

We will send a clear message to parents and staff that if they are exhibiting any symptoms, they should not come to school or report to work. If a student exhibits symptoms at school they will be taken to a location at the school clinic set aside for possible COVID-19 cases and their parent or guardian will be notified to take them home or to visit a medical professional.

What if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

The Polk County Health Department will notify the school if a student or staff member tests positive. We will notify parents, while not specifically identifying the student or staff member. We will cooperate with the Health Department as they conduct the appropriate notifications of individuals who have been in contact with the person infected. Our PPCA Reopening plan is designed to limit the chances of infection and to limit the disruption to a school or workplace in the event of an infection.

How will Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings take place in the fall?

PPCA is committed to providing families an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the special education process. Whether in-person or an alternative format, such as videoconferencing or by phone, IEP teams will partner with families to determine the most practical format to conduct IEP meetings.

Will students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans receive accommodations in PPCA Distance classroom?

All students attending PPCA Distance classroom will have access to many accommodations that naturally occur in the online educational setting. In addition, PPCA may be able to provide additional accommodations per a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan if the accommodation(s) is/are applicable to the online educational environment. Please note that some accommodations may not be possible to implement in the online educational setting.

Will students attend field trips and school functions?

PPCA will seek guidance from the CDC and the local health department guidelines for travel. No school functions will be scheduled or held without administration approval in conjunction with regulatory agencies.

The primary responsibility for determining the best option for school setting will always reside with the parents/guardians. Each family has a comfort level for the degree of safety precautions for their student. In no case do we dictate to families the model of learning a student must take in order to obtain an education.

Please remember PPCA has opted for two models and those are only PPCA options for your child to receive an education.

The state and district offer different options through Polk Virtual, Florida Virtual, as well as other school choice options which includes a student's zone school.

