



Polk Pre-Collegiate Academy

Reopening Plan 2020-2021

Guiding Principles

Distance/Remote Learning

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; an 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 10th

Last day of the nine weeks: Friday, October 9th

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.

Distance/Remote Learning

The PPCA Distance Learning model is designed for families who would like to maintain their enrollment at PPCA, but do not yet feel comfortable sending their student(s) back to school in August due to COVID-19.

Students will attend school remotely, following the standard school schedule and bell times. Based on feedback after our distance learning experience during Quarter 4, this learning model will incorporate

many of the features that parents and students valued, such as regular virtual real-time interaction with teachers each day for every class.

Parents can rely on teachers to facilitate and guide student learning. Students will have scheduled times for classes, class meetings, and digital resources and assignments that can be completed at home. This learning model provides families the flexibility to choose an instructional model to meet their needs during these uncertain times, and reflects our commitment to providing a high-quality instructional experience, no matter what the setting.

What to expect from PPCA Distance Classroom

- Students are at home learning and will need access to a device and internet
- Instruction is provided remotely and students will have access to their teachers in real time during the regular school day/period hours
- Students can expect daily face-to-face connections for every period
- Attendance will be taken daily in each course
- Students not in attendance, on screen, at the beginning of the period, will be marked absent and not allowed late entry into the class
- Students must be signed in, seated at a table or desk, and remain for the length of the period in dress code.
- Technical and/or internet issues, unless large scale outages, may not count as excused
- Students must follow all online classroom etiquette and rules, as established by each teacher.
- Once admitted into a classroom, the student is expected to stay for the length of the class.
- Students follow rules and procedures outlined in the school's BYOD and Technology policies.

Additional Supports for Students and Families

- Tips and strategies to support students learning off campus
- Support from case managers and academic intervention teachers to meet student needs during regular school hours.
- Virtual meetings and communication with School Counselor and Administrator as needed

The following section contain common questions about reopening 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 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 PPCA Distance 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.

Will parents 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.

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

August 10th remains the start date for the school year.

Will students wear masks in classrooms?

Masks and face coverings are strongly encouraged to be worn on campus, but are not mandatory at this time. While students will not be required to wear masks or cloth face coverings in class, they are certainly encouraged to be worn in class and during class changes. 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.

7/3/2020