



POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Polk Virtual Academy Parent Resources Grades 1-5

Welcome to Polk Virtual Academy (PVA)! We are excited that your student will be joining us this semester. Our academy uses the Odysseyware virtual learning platform with additional supplemental assignments provided through iXL and MobyMax platforms. These programs use a combination of animations, video-led direct instruction, and activities that will support Georgia Department of Education Standards for each subject. Students will complete the lesson(s) and review as necessary to achieve mastery. At PVA, we strongly believe that each student is unique and acquires information differently. While instruction will be provided through Odysseyware, PVA will have certified teachers to assist throughout the learning process to ensure that your student's educational experience is successful.

Meet Our Team

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-Frequently Asked Questions -

What are the Polk Virtual Academy Options for Grades 1-5?

Polk Virtual Academy, for grades first through fifth, is a fully online alternative for students. This option is not a separate entity or school, but rather an extension of each school site. If you are a fifth-grade student in the virtual academy, you are still a member of the fifth-grade at the school you are currently enrolled. Participating students will engage in remote instruction that addresses the Georgia Department of Education standards for each subject. Remote assignments will support high-quality instruction by addressing essential skills, knowledge, and content mastery. **Polk Virtual Academy will require students to be engaged in active learning for a minimum of 4.5 hours each school day, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., in order to be counted as present and receive credit.**

Who can apply?

Polk School District acknowledges there may be students and families that require a virtual learning option in order to protect their health and safety. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis; items reviewed may include (but not limited to) medical need, grades, attendance, previous virtual learning experience, etc.

What is the parent's role?

The parents' role is critical to the success of the learning experience for elementary students. Parents serve as the "learning coach" and sit alongside the students as they learn to navigate the virtual classroom. During the early weeks of the school year, students will need full-time support. As the year progresses and learners become more capable of guiding their own educational experience, parental support/involvement may diminish. ***Please keep in mind, younger students that are unfamiliar with technology and not yet proficient in reading may require a higher level of support and need the learning coach at home to assist up to four to five hours a day.***

Parents must work with online teachers to:

- Provide a supportive learning environment that engages the student. You will need to make sure your student stays on track and completes all assessments and assignments.
- Know when to balance support with appropriate redirection and encouragement.
- Allow the student to direct the learning as much as possible and be mindful of the learning goals while keeping the student in the driver's seat.
- Refrain from providing too much help and guidance with assessments.
- Become familiar with, and support, the child in using district platforms/software.
- Partner with your student's PVA teacher—routinely communicate and collaborate on how to best meet the student's needs.

Is this for the entire semester?

Yes. PVA placements are for the entire semester. Students will not have the option to return to in-person instruction until spring semester (January 2022). Polk School District will determine second semester availability based on COVID-19 data and guidance.

What will the virtual option learning schedule look like?

A daily time commitment, Tuesday through Friday, will be expected for all students. Students

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE	
8:10-8:30	Breakfast and Goal Setting with Parent/Guardian
8:30-10:30	ELA Reading/ Writing/Language Arts
10:30-10:50	Brain Break (Parents select an option best suited to their child’s needs.)
10:50-12:00	Math
12:00-1:00	Lunch/Playtime
1:00-2:00	Science / Social Studies
2:00-2:15	Brain Break (Parents select an option best suited to their child’s needs.)
2:15-3:00	Supplemental Activities as Assigned

Will students be required to sit in front of a computer all day?

No, screen-time for young learners should be limited and have frequent breaks. See Sample Schedule.

What if my student has questions about course content that I cannot answer?

Students will have access to their PVA course teachers through Odysseyware Messenger and Polk School District Email. There are also options for online tutoring through Zoom lessons.

What about school activities?

Students enrolled in PVA will **NOT** be allowed to participate in face-to-face school activities (sports, events, clubs, etc.).

Will services such as Early Intervention Program (EIP), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and Exceptional Student Services be provided through the PVA?

Yes. Polk School District will provide EIP, ESOL, 504, and Special Education services for eligible PVA students. Your student's IEP or 504 team will meet to review and adjust services and supports necessary to meet your student's needs in a virtual environment. However, not all accommodations are applicable to online courses and some are not possible. In some cases, students may be required to meet with special services providers at one of our facilities to receive services. IEP Case Managers will contact parent(s)/guardian(s) to schedule an IEP amendment meeting to address any updates necessary in a virtual environment.

Is there a cost to participate in PVA?

There is no fee for virtual learning. However, families are responsible for supplying regular school supplies and a reliable internet connection.

Do students receive grades and report cards?

Yes. Grading and reporting procedures will follow the same schedule as all Polk School District schools. Teachers will communicate student progress to parents weekly. Grades are determined based on course average and course progress. Parents and students can access grades through Powerschool and/or Odysseyware dashboard.

Does PVA have an attendance policy?

Yes, attendance will be taken each day just like a regular class. Student absences can result in truancy procedures (see student handbook). Students must be online a minimum of 4.5 hours between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. each school day.

Where can I get information about how to use Odysseyware?

[Odysseyware Instructional Video](#)

Please watch this informative video. The video will explain how students navigate the program and how parents can check a student's grades and progress in each class.

Polk Virtual Academy
Login Information

Parent:
PowerSchool

User name _____

Password _____

Student PowerSchool

User name _____

Password _____

Student:
Odysseyware

User Name _____

Password _____