



POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Polk Virtual Academy Parent Resources Grades 6-12

Welcome to the Polk Virtual Academy! We are excited that your student will be joining us this semester in Polk Virtual Academy. Our academy uses the Odysseyware virtual learning platform. Using 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 6-12?

Polk Virtual Academy, for grades six through twelve, 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 high school student in the virtual academy, you are still a member of the the school you are currently enrolled. Participating students will engage in remote instruction that addresses the Georgia Department of Education standards for each subject. **The Polk Virtual Academy option, for grades 6-12, 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.** Remote assignments will support high-quality instruction by addressing essential skills, knowledge, and content mastery.

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 documentation, 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 middle and high school students. We strongly recommend that a parent/guardian be available to help facilitate the virtual academy student. Polk Virtual Academy teachers will be available through Odysseyware messenger and Polk School District Email. During the early weeks of the school year, students may need more support to get organized and establish successful routines. As the year progresses, and learners become more capable of self-management and self-direction, parental involvement may be adjusted depending on the individual needs of the student.

Students are expected to perform their school work independently. However, a parent/guardian or designated representative must still monitor progress and ensure that the student completes the required coursework. This adult is also expected to be available for teacher conferences. While students may not need adult supervision during the school day, they must still be in a safe and secure environment.

Parents must work with online teachers to:

- Check on student daily progress, especially at the beginning of their virtual school experience.
- Help your students map out their work/goals for the day/week and do periodic check-ins with them throughout the day/week to make sure they are on target to meet their goals.
- Allow the student to direct the learning as much as possible; be mindful of the learning goals but keep the student in the driver's seat.
- Refrain from providing help and guidance with assessments, allowing the teacher to accurately ascertain what has been learned and what skills or knowledge need to be revisited.
- Become familiar with and support the child in using Odysseyware system.
- Partner and routinely communicate with teachers, collaborating on how best to meet the student's needs.
- Check parent email each day for communication between the school and home.

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 must enroll in a minimum of seven courses per semester. All classes are not available in a virtual format and schedule changes may be necessary. Students must log on the system a minimum of 4.5 hours per school day during the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Students must complete 50-60% passing progress each week to compete all seven classes.

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 students 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. TEP Case Managers will contact parent(s)/guardian(s) to schedule and 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 with student progress to parents weekly. Grades are determined based on course average and course progress. Parents and students can access grades through the student's Powerschool account and/or Odysseyware dashboard.

Does PVA have an attendance policy?

Yes, attendance will be taken each day just like regular class. Student absence 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 _____