The 2020-2021 school year was nothing we could have imagined; however, it was one from which we all grew stronger and more resilient. Now, looking ahead to the next school year we can glean from the experiences of this past year and build off tactics and practices that will help us continue our mission of equity and excellence for all students.

In Pulaski County Special School District, our goal is to continue to provide a safe environment for all of our students while also providing a rigorous academic experience where students are able to interact with teachers and fellow students daily. We will continue to extend new learning and enrich current learning, while intervening in order to address potential learning loss. Additionally, we will provide social and emotional support for our students as this year put a strain on many students’ mental health and well-being.

PCSSD will continue to implement a blended learning style through online and traditional instructional tools. Schoology will remain as the District’s learning management system (LMS) for all grade levels. Schoology provided many benefits for teachers, students and parents this year and we’re excited to see how we can benefit from this LMS moving forward. When it comes to academics, PCSSD will continue to provide small group instruction where needed as many students thrive in this learning environment. Our teachers will have the opportunity to continue with exceptional professional development opportunities in order to better serve our students.

AVID (advancement via individual determination) and PBIS (positive behavior interventions and supports) will remain as two “Big Rocks” within PCSSD. Through AVID, students will learn the importance of developing a growth mindset that increases engagement, promotes classroom collaboration and activates deeper levels of learning. Students will continue to build positive behavior habits and earn rewards for those practices. PBIS addresses student behavior through systems change. When it’s implemented well, students achieve improved social and academic outcomes, schools experience reduced exclusionary discipline practices, and school personnel feel more effective.

As PCSSD is constantly adapting and seeking areas to improve for the growth of all students. STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) practices will increase across the District. It is our hope that PCSSD students will gain success in STEM classes in order to be competitive for STEM careers.
Students will be introduced to project based learning.
  • This concept is an introduction to Ford NGL at the secondary level.

Enrichment classrooms
  • Help fill gap areas
  • Boost engagement
  • Inclusive for all students

Blended instructional schedules will not be offered next year.
Students must choose traditional or virtual (with at least a semester commitment).

PCSSD will continue to use the following programs in elementary classrooms:
  • Everyday Math
  • Redbird (Math)
  • Journeys (Reading)
  • Lexia (Reading)
  • Six Traits +1 (Writing)
  • Mystery Science
  • Discovery Ed (Science)
  • Studies Weekly (Social Studies and Science)

Students will continue to be provided with opportunities for enrichment and learning expansion.
Block Schedules
- As part of the Ford NGL platform, students in grades 6-8 will have a block schedule in the 2021-2022 school year.
- Opportunity to extend learning
- Reteach where gaps exist
- Practice where students are on grade-level
- Block schedules will take on a new approach to enhance project based learning.
  - 7-periods per day
  - 80 minutes for core classes
  - 42 minute blocks for electives/science/social studies
- Block schedules will offer theme-based instruction.
  - Teams will work together to combine classes based on instructional themes.
  - 20+ more teachers will be added to accommodate block schedules and assist with reducing teacher caseload.

Students will be introduced to project based learning.
- This concept is an introduction to Ford NGL in high school.

More ACT prep will be made available to middle school students.

Blended instructional schedules will not be offered next year.
Students must choose traditional or virtual (with at least a semester commitment).

PCSSD will continue to use the following programs in 6-8 grade classrooms:
- Reveal Math
- Alex (Math)
- Novels-based curriculum (Reading)
- Discovery Ed (Science)
- Savvas (Science)
- Studies Weekly (Social Studies and Science)
- Studies in African American Culture Club (SAACC)
- Pre-AP and current electives will continue even with block scheduling.
Full implementation of Ford NGL as the *Academies of Central Arkansas*

- All 9th graders will take freshman seminar to kickstart the program.

Blended instructional schedules will not be offered next year.

Students must choose traditional or virtual (with at least a semester commitment).

PCSSD will continue to use the following programs in 9-12 grade classrooms:

- Reveal Math
- Alex (Math)
- Novels-based curriculum (Reading)
- Discovery Ed (Science)
- Savvas (Science)
- Studies in African American Culture Club (SAACC)

**DRIVEN School of Opportunity** will continue to be a major focus for students at Maumelle, Mills University Studies and Robinson high school campuses.

Teen Court (Juvenile Justice class), which launched in the 2020-2021 school year, will continue to be offered at all high school campuses.