

Registration FAQs about Paul Duke STEM High School



Paul Duke STEM High School (PDS HS) will be a theme high school, opening in the Norcross Cluster in August of 2018. The school's focus will be on rigorous and relevant applications of technology in science, engineering, and mathematics (together, known as STEM) in three main areas:

- *Applied Engineering and Robotics*
- *Communication, Art, and Design*
- *Digital and Innovative Technology*

The school will be located at 5850 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Norcross. It will serve high students in the Norcross Cluster attendance zone. Students will choose to attend either Norcross HS or Paul Duke STEM HS. The addition of a second high school within the Norcross Cluster provides much-needed relief to Norcross HS, the district's largest high school with a current enrollment of 3,800 students. Paul Duke STEM HS offers a unique "smaller school" experience not available at Norcross HS. We anticipate Paul Duke STEM HS will open with approximately 800 to 900 students, growing to its capacity of 1,200 students over the next few years.



When will registration begin for the new school?

Students and families of students currently attending Norcross High School (HS) and 8th graders at Pinckneyville and Summerour middle schools will be asked to submit a letter of intent to attend either Paul Duke STEM HS or Norcross HS by **December 8, 2017**.

How will students who are interested in the new school learn about the school and its offerings?

Community meetings will be held beginning in late October running through November. These meetings will take place at Norcross HS, Pinckneyville MS, Summerour MS, and the J. Alvin Wilbanks Instructional Support Center in Suwanee. In addition, Dr. Jonathon Wetherington, the principal of Paul Duke STEM HS, will be visiting Norcross HS and the two middle schools to share information about the new school with students. Prospective students also will have the opportunity to participate in an initial interest survey that will tell students more about the school while also giving school leaders feedback regarding student interest.

My student has submitted a letter of intent to attend Paul Duke STEM HS. How will he register for his courses for next year?

For current Norcross HS students, course registration for Paul Duke STEM HS will begin in January at their current school.

Does my student need a teacher recommendation in order to register for the new school?

Students do not need a teacher recommendation in order to register. Prospective students will participate in a student interest survey to help determine if Paul Duke STEM HS would be a good fit.

Are there any prerequisites or requirements students need to meet in order to be eligible to attend?

There are no requirements for eligibility to attend PDS HS. However, PDS HS is designed for students who:

- Are passionate users of technology.
- Are creative thinkers and curious critical-thinkers.
- Enjoy applying math and science to solve problems.
- Desire to help others and improve their community.
- Want the school experience to look and feel different.

If my student submits her letter of intent early, does my child have a better chance of getting in?

Because there has been a great deal of interest in Paul Duke STEM HS, we are planning on limiting the number of students who can attend to 400 students per grade level in year one. If you and your child intend to choose Paul Duke STEM HS as their high school, we recommend that you submit your student's letter of intent by the initial deadline, of December 8.

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Can a student sign a letter of intent without parental permission?

Prospective students will participate in an initial interest survey at their current school, but a student's letter of intent will require permission from a parent/guardian.

What if I miss the initial registration deadline in December. Will it be too late to register?

Due to high interest in this new school, we are encouraging interested students to submit their letter of intent and register by the deadline. However, prospective students are encouraged to submit their letter of intent and request to register even after the December 8 deadline in case additional capacity becomes available.

How will it be determined who gets in if more students sign up than there are spots? Will there be a lottery? How would it work? Who would organize it?

Those who submit their letter of intent to attend by the deadline will be considered first. The registration process is not currently scheduled to be lottery-based. However, if registration exceeds the projected 400 students per grade level in year one, the school district will host a lottery. This lottery will follow the current process in place for other schools and programs— including GSMST and Dual Language Immersion programs at select elementary schools— that are supported by a lottery.

Is registration priority going to be determined based on those who register first? If not, how will it be determined?

Due to increased interest in this new school, it is recommended that interested students submit their letter of intent by the **December 8, 2017, deadline**. If registration exceeds the projected 400 students per grade level in year one, GCPS will host a lottery that follows the current process in place for other schools and programs supported by a lottery. Each registrant would be assigned a lottery number that would be used should a lottery be required.

If my student expresses interest, how will I know for certain which high school he or she will attend next year? When will I be notified that my student will be attending Paul Duke STEM HS?

Students' registration status for school year 2018–19— as a student at either Paul Duke STEM HS or Norcross HS— will be confirmed before the end of first semester.

I have two children. If my 10th grader attends Paul Duke next year, am I guaranteed that my younger student who is in 7th grade also will be able to attend when she transitions to high school?

Yes, in future years, we will give preferred status to families with currently enrolled students.

Will Paul Duke STEM HS take students from outside the Norcross Cluster?

The school's first priority is to serve students in the Norcross Cluster, offering much-needed relief to Norcross HS. However, if the school has slots available after its initial registration period, it will accept permissive transfers from students who attend other Gwinnett high schools. Note that transportation is not provided for students on a permissive transfer.

When will students from other schools know if they can apply for a permissive transfer to Paul Duke STEM HS?

Once there is an initial count of how many students Paul Duke STEM HS will have each grade level, information will be communicated to area high schools and posted on the GCPS website.

If transfers from other schools are accepted, will the same rules apply that apply to current permissive transfers?

Yes, the expectations for students accepted on a permissive transfer will be consistent at our school just as at any other GCPS school. For example, permissive transfers are revocable if a student becomes a discipline problem or if a student has excessive absences or tardies.

How can I learn more?

Our website is coming! In the meantime, interested students, parents, and community partners may contact: Dr. Jonathon Wetherington, principal, at jonathon_wetherington@gwinnett.k12.ga.us.

Dates and Locations of Upcoming Information Meetings about Paul Duke STEM High School

Location	Date	Time
Norcross HS	Monday, November 13, 2017	6:30 pm
Pinckneyville MS	Wednesday, November 15, 2017	6:30 pm
Norcross HS	Monday, November 27, 2017	6:30 pm
Summerour MS	Thursday, November 30, 2017	6:30 pm

If you are unable to attend a meeting, but have questions, visit the GCPS website, or contact Dr. Jonathon Wetherington, principal, at jonathon_wetherington@gwinnett.k12.ga.us.



Paul Duke STEM High School
5850 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross, GA