

The Academy of Science, Research, & Medicine

Admissions Application Packet



2026-27

The Academy of Science, Research, & Medicine Admission Application Checklist

Paulding County High School Academy of Science, Research & Medicine seeks highly motivated students who are achievers and who take academic risks and pursue intellectual challenges. Our unique programs are designed for students who are curious, love to solve problems, are comfortable using technology, and can work independently as well as in a group setting.

Students seeking acceptance into the Academy should complete this application packet in its entirety and attach all requested documents except for the three teacher recommendations, which will be submitted online by the teacher.

No partial application packets will be accepted. Application packets can be submitted between January 23, 2026 and March 8, 2026. No early or late application packets will be received or considered for admission.

To be considered for admission, a complete application packet must include all of the following documents:

- ☐ **Completed Admissions Application on Paulding County School District Website**
- ☐ **Completed Academy Admissions Application** (blue or black ink)
 - ☐ **Short Essay Question** (typed)
The response must be written solely by the student.
 - ☐ **Academy Contract** - initialed and signed by the student and a parent/guardian.
 - ☐ **Capstone Contract** - initialed and signed by the student and a parent/guardian.
 - ☐ **Milestone Score Report** - attach a copy of the student's 7th Grade Milestone Score Report - a copy can be obtained from current school.
 - ☐ **Attendance Report** - attach a copy of the student's attendance report from current school (6th, 7th & 8th Grade).
 - ☐ **Discipline Report** - attach a copy of the student's discipline report from current school (6th, 7th & 8th Grade).
 - ☐ **Report Card** - attach a copy of the student's most recent 8th grade report card (end of fall semester).
- ☐ **Submit Admissions Application Packet** in its entirety to the counseling department at PCHS between January 23, 2026 and March 8, 2026.
- ☐ **Student Interviews for 2nd Round Candidate Qualifiers – to be after 3/16**

Please be prepared to answer the following questions:

 - Describe a time when you felt challenged, unsuccessful, or overwhelmed. How did you handle that situation? What did you learn from the experience?
 - How would you describe your work habits? How do you manage your time so that you are successful? Consider both school and extracurricular activities in your response.
 - What makes you stand out as a student and how will this help you become a valuable addition to this program?



PAULDING COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, RESEARCH, & MEDICINE
2026-2027 ADMISSIONS APPLICATION

STUDENT INFORMATION

Last Name:		First Name:		Student ID#:
Date of Birth:	Age:	Gender: Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/>		
Home Phone:		Home Email:		
Street Address:				City:
State:	ZIP Code:	Zoned High School:		

CURRENT SCHOOL INFORMATION

Current School:			School Phone:	
Street Address:			School Fax:	
City:	State:	Zip Code:	Public School: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name:			Parent/Guardian Name:		
Legal Guardian: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			Legal Guardian: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Street Address:			Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:	City:	State:	Zip:
Parent/Guardian E-Mail:			Parent/Guardian E-mail:		
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:		Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
Work Phone:			Work Phone:		

RECOMMENDATIONS

Student applicants are required to submit three recommendation forms on the county application page, which must include one recommendation from the current 8th grade math teacher, one from the current 8th grade science teacher, and one from a current middle school teacher of choice. Recommendations must be submitted online by each teacher. List the three evaluators in the space below.

Educator's Name:	E-mail:	Subject Taught:
Educator's Name:	E-mail:	Subject Taught:
Educator's Name:	E-mail:	Subject Taught:

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION AND SIGNATURES

I hereby submit this application for my child to be considered for admission to Paulding County High School Academy of Science, Research, & Medicine and give my permission for school officials to request and report my child's academic records when required. I understand that the screening committee will maintain the teacher information and test results in confidence. I also waive the right to access all recommendations.

Signature of Student Applicant:	Date:
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:

Short Essay Question

Directions: The response must be original work by the student. The submitted document must be typed in MLA format.

The Academy is designed for students interested in math, science, research, and/or medicine. Explain what aspect of math, science, research and/or medicine you are interested in and why. Include personal examples and anecdotes to support each part of your answer.

Contract for Students and Parents

Name of Student: _____Application for School Year 2026-2027

Paulding County High School Academy of Science, Research, & Medicine is a college preparatory program for students interested in healthcare, science, and research. The standards and expectations for attending the school are detailed in specific conduct and academic achievement guidelines. These standards and expectations are outlined in this contract.

Please read carefully. The student and parent/guardian must initial each expectation and sign below.

Initials	Parent/ Student	Guardian	
_____	_____		1. I will attend school daily, arrive promptly, and remain throughout the scheduled hours.
_____	_____		2. I will cooperate with the faculty and staff of Paulding County High School, my peers, liaison personnel, and community partners by respectfully conducting myself.
_____	_____		3. I will complete all classwork, homework, and assignments to meet standards.
_____	_____		4. I will complete my program of study.
_____	_____		5. I will set aside a minimum of three hours of uninterrupted study time daily.
_____	_____		6. I will maintain a minimum grade of 75 (unweighted) for AP and Honors courses and a minimum grade of 85 in all other courses. Grades will be monitored and analyzed throughout the grading period. Failure to meet this criterion will result in probation for up to three consecutive semesters and, if not corrected, may require reassignment to my zone school.
_____	_____		7. I will respect and care for all equipment, supplies, and other school property entrusted to me and pay for any damages or loss.
_____	_____		8. I will maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity and will abide by the rules and regulations of the PCHS Student Handbook and the Paulding County Board of Education Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.
_____	_____		9. I will take all required math and science courses at PCHS. Dual enrollment courses may be taken for social studies and English courses.
_____	_____		10. I will adhere to the policies of the Georgia High School Association for competitive activities.
_____	_____		11. I will not seek readmission to the PCHS Academy if I am withdrawn for any reason.
_____	_____		12. I will adhere to the policies, rules, and guidelines of both Paulding County High School and its community partners.
_____	_____		13. I will actively participate in the Career Tech Student Organization (CTSO) associated with my chosen career pathway and school.

The privilege of attending Paulding County High School Academy of Science, Research, & Medicine depends upon the student and the parent's personal responsibility, commitment, and dedication. I understand and will adhere to the standards and expectations of this contract. Failure to meet any of the above criteria may require reassignment of the student to their zone school. This contract will be upheld as long as the student remains in the program.

Signature of Student Required: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian Required: _____ Date: _____

CAPSTONE EXPECTATION

Accreditation for STEM certification requires all students to complete a Capstone project. Students in the STEM-certified PCHS Academy of Science, Research, and Medicine will complete a research-based Capstone project during their eleventh-grade year, which culminates in a final presentation of their Capstone project to a panel of community judges. The Capstone project is a requirement to earn the Academy seal and stole for graduation.

MISSION AND OVERVIEW

The Capstone Project is designed to prepare STEM students for lifelong learning and effective and productive citizenship through the opportunity to plan, complete, and present a self-directed culminating project. Capstone projects are interdisciplinary, in the sense that they require students to apply skills or investigate issues across many different subject areas and demonstrate the most important components of their K-12 learning. The Capstone experience is designed to encourage students to think critically, solve challenging problems, and develop skills such as public speaking, research skills, media literacy, teamwork, planning, self-sufficiency, and goal setting, skills that will help prepare them for college and career readiness.

STANDARDS AND SKILLS

The STEM Capstone Project requires students to demonstrate core standards and skills, which include:

1. Thinking critically and creatively
2. Demonstrating flexibility and initiative
3. Conducting analysis and research, including proper citation of references
4. Communicating ideas through multiple modalities
5. Using technology effectively

PROCESS

Students who choose to earn their final English credit through AP English Literature and Composition will complete their Capstone project in that class. Students who choose to earn their final English credit through the dual enrollment program will complete their Capstone project as an independent study. This will require meeting with the teacher facilitator during their office hours, completion of all Capstone assignments to be due at the same time as those completed by AP Literature students, and presentation of their Capstone project to a panel of community judges on the evening of Capstone, either in December or May. Since Capstone is an Academy of Science, Research, and Medicine requirement, students who do not complete the Capstone Project and its components will not receive the Academy seal and stole at graduation.

CAPSTONE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Initials	Parent/ Guardian	
Student		
_____	_____	I understand that the Capstone project is a requirement to earn the Academy seal and stole for graduation and that I cannot graduate with Academy honors without completion of this project.
Signature of Student Required: _____		Date: _____
Signature of Parent/Guardian Required: _____		Date: _____

Please return this application packet to:

**Paulding County High School
C/O Heather DeJohn-Mathis**

Paulding County High School
The Academy of Science, Research & Medicine
1297 Villa Rica Highway
Dallas, Georgia 30157

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

All applications must be received or postmarked between
Thursday, January 23, 2026 and Sunday, March 8, 2026
by 4:00 p.m.