



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Pearl River School Community,

As we reflect on a tumultuous two weeks in our nation - surpassing 100,000 in the official count of deaths related to COVID-19, and the anger and rage over the senseless deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor - we do so with increasing levels of frustration and anxiety. Images and videos from rallies and protests bring home the immediacy of the crisis. I recognize that many in our Pearl River community have been affected by the events of recent days.

George Floyd's unnecessary death on May 25th while in police custody has re-opened a national wound that had barely begun to heal. Families, my own included, are struggling to comprehend this event, and the complex social ills of racism, violence, inequality and anarchy that have been brought to the forefront. I hope to assure everyone, especially our children and families of color, of the District's commitment to fostering learning environments, whether in our schools or via remote learning, that are safe places for all students to learn.

As a community of educators, we work to create environments where kindness for all is actively taught, as well as other pro-social virtues such as trustworthiness, caring, respect, responsibility, citizenship, and fairness. I believe wholeheartedly that our parents share that commitment, and because of that our students are able to flourish and thrive, and our schools can take their learning to new and higher levels.

I have profound respect and admiration for the men and women of law enforcement who have dedicated their lives to serve and protect us. I know that many of our Pearl River families include members of the law enforcement community. I cannot imagine how difficult a time this must be personally and professionally. As always, we thank you for your service.

The role of the District, is to prepare the young people entrusted to our care to be the leaders of tomorrow, a better tomorrow. I am confident that the combined efforts of our teaching and learning communities, in our homes and in our schools, will help our young people take on the mantle of leadership in their time, with compassion, empathy, kindness, and justice for all.

As we make our way through one crisis and confront another, I keep all of our Pearl River families, in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,