



Pearl River School District

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

March 23, 2020

Dear Pearl River Families and Colleagues,

First and foremost, I sincerely hope that you and your families are well during this difficult time. In this letter I want to reiterate some information that has been shared recently regarding the results of expanded testing for COVID-19 and basic precautionary measures that have been consistently recommended by health officials. I also want to share what we know from the State Education Department regarding this year's assessments.

As you probably know the number of confirmed cases has grown rapidly in the County as the availability of testing increases through the Rockland County Department of Health. As time goes by and the crisis peaks, the risk that members of our community will have contracted the virus may increase. In light of this possibility I will continue to advocate with County Executive Ed Day, for extending school closure along with my superintendent colleagues in Rockland County.

We should all do everything we can to follow the recommendations from the CDC, the DOH at the State and County level, and the Surgeon General. Please take every precaution to prevent becoming infected, or infecting others. This means, staying home, practicing social distancing, frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes appropriately.

As a reminder, our school campuses, including all playgrounds, athletic fields and courts are closed until further notice. The only exception is the distribution of meals for eligible students at Pearl River High School Pirate Cove from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Monday through Friday. We must all do our part to slow the progress of this virus in order to not overwhelm our health care facilities.

We have received notification from the NYS Education Department that the administration of the 2020 elementary and intermediate assessments have been suspended for the remainder of the school year. This applies to the following NYS Assessments:

- New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Test;
- New York State Grades 3-8 Mathematics Test;
- New York State Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test;
- New York State Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test;
- New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) in Grades K-12; and
- New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) for students with severe cognitive disabilities in Grades 3-8 and high school.

There is no word from the NYSED regarding HS Regents exams at this time.

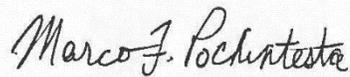
High School students taking Advanced Placement classes will be able to take their AP exam online. Please expect more information regarding AP exams from the high school administration.

As information becomes available, we will keep our school community apprised.

Our Board of Education meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening will be an online meeting and will be streamed live to our YouTube channel at the following link [Pearl River School District](#) . More information regarding how to take part in the public participation portion of the meeting will be sent tomorrow and will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

In closing, I wish all of our Pearl River families well during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marco J. Pochitestà". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'M' and a distinct 'à' at the end.