

Dear Pearl River Parents,

As we end our first week of school for students, I am happy to report that overall, things went very smoothly this week for both students and staff. There was a global issue with Google on Tuesday that was resolved in under an hour, and the K-2 app, SeeSaw experienced difficulty for approximately 1/2 hour yesterday. Considering the number of districts that are using these learning platforms nationwide, we are pleased that disruptions beyond our control were minimal. In August, we upgraded our wifi bandwidth capability. We are pleased that during this week of remote learning, the bandwidth was sufficient to support remote instruction throughout the district. Our tech department has been working with individual families that were experiencing technical difficulties this week.

Next week begins our first week of in-person instruction under our hybrid plan. Families should have received information from their child's school for procedures that students will follow. Earlier today, parents received information regarding the required daily temperature and questionnaire screening that all parents must complete each morning for each child before the student reports to school. The district has purchased the ezSCRN app for parents to complete this mandatory screening requirement. This application is being used by a number of districts in NYS and is Ed 2-d and FERPA (student data privacy laws) compliant.

It is imperative that if your child has any of the [symptoms of COVID-19 as identified by the CDC](#), that he or she not be sent to school.

The construction work for the capital projects at the middle school and high school is continuing. The majority of the work at this point will be external, with some finishing touches to the interior projects that will be completed outside of school hours. The foundation for the new stairwell tower at the high school has been built, and the art classroom addition began this week. The middle school's addition to the gymnasium, and the music wing are in a staging phase and that work will commence soon.

Governor Cuomo has implemented a COVID Dashboard for districts to report the number of COVID-19 cases in NYS schools. While NYS has not yet made the dashboard public, the web address is <https://forward.ny.gov/dashboard-covid-19-data-schools>. This link is posted on our website under the Planning for School Re-Opening page.

Lastly, today marks the 19th anniversary of 9/11. Each school took time today for this solemn observance in ways that were appropriate for the developmental levels of their students. I know you join me in honoring and remembering all those lost and our brave first responders as well. Our thoughts are with them and their families.

Sincerely,

Marco F. Pochintesta

