



# Pearl River School District

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**Marco F. Pochintesta**  
Superintendent of Schools

September 5, 2017

Dear Pearl River Parents and Families,

On behalf of the school district, I welcome you to the 2017-18 school year. I visited each of the school buildings today and many of our classrooms. It was great seeing everyone in good spirits, and ready for a new year of learning.

In addition to the normal summer cleaning of all of our classrooms and offices, we had several projects completed at the schools. At the Middle School, a number of classrooms received a fresh coat of paint and the courtyard was renovated with a new walkway. Cement work and resurfacing of paved areas took place at the Middle School, High School, and Lincoln Avenue. The technology classroom at the high school has had a dust collection system installed, a welcome addition in this space where students regularly engage in woodwork and metalwork alongside advanced design and drawing projects. The High School's auditorium has had a major facelift with carpeting installed in the aisles and pit, and the stage professionally painted. The Middle School's auditorium has also been painted.

This summer, our faculty participated in over 275 hours of summer curriculum work and new staff participated in two days of professional development in preparation for the new school year. We begin this year with new electives at the HS, expanded special service offerings at Evans Park Elementary School, and a full time library media specialist that will serve the elementary schools on a rotating basis.

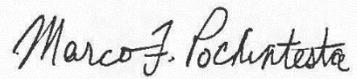
Our technology department retired and replaced all of the old Samsung Chromebooks throughout the district, with new Dell Chromebooks. They have also prepared a whole new fleet of Dell Chromebooks that will be rolled out as part of this year's installment in the initiative to achieve a one-to-one ratio of technology devices available to students. Other fundamental changes that our technology department worked on this summer was the upgrade of the Adobe Create Cloud, and SMART Notebook 17.

Our Superintendent's Conference Day was held last Thursday. The day allowed us an opportunity to reflect on the past year and reaffirm our commitment to the District's mission that "All Students Can and Will Learn." We've begun this year refreshed and energized. Critical thinking and creative problem solving remains our focus as we work to offer an educational experience to all students that is rich in 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning.

If you have experienced delays in transportation to and from school during this first day back to school, please be assured that we are working to address the issues and we apologize for the inconvenience.

I hope that your children return home from their first day of school sharing their excitement and showing that their passions for learning have been sparked.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marco J. Pochini". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.