



## Pearl River School District

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**Marco F. Pochintesta**  
Superintendent of Schools

November 29, 2017

Dear Pearl River School Community,

We have had a busy and productive month in all of our schools. We began with our Superintendent's Conference Day earlier this month which provided important time for professional development for our teachers and teaching assistants. Teachers engaged in a variety of high quality learning experiences. They worked with a consultant on literacy, content area teachers worked to align instruction to new Regents courses, and our technology coaches furthered our understanding of how to integrate applications in instruction.

In the afternoon, each building participated in discussions centered on a new initiative this year, the *Profile of a Pearl River Graduate*. This effort builds upon our focus over the last three years of infusing the 4Cs- creative problem solving, critical thinking, communication and collaboration in our instruction. Our goal is to develop a shared vision among all of our stakeholders of those values and skills that we believe are essential for our students to be successful as they transition to higher education, their careers and as 21<sup>st</sup> century citizens.

Another exciting development this year is in the field of technology. We are phasing in a 1:1 Chromebook initiative that will begin with this year's 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Over the next few months, each 6<sup>th</sup> grader and 9<sup>th</sup> grader will receive a Chromebook much like a student receives a textbook. Students will use their device both in school and at home for several years. The use of these devices will support student work in critical thinking, engagement in problem-based learning and creative problem solving, communication and collaboration. We expect to phase this initiative in over the next several years with incoming 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

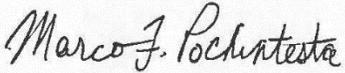
Current 6<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents have been invited to a special meeting at the Middle School on the evening of December 5<sup>th</sup> to learn more about this initiative including the guidelines and responsibilities for participating. Parents of 9<sup>th</sup> graders will receive information regarding a similar meeting in January.

Our elementary schools held their annual Thanksgiving Feasts last week. In addition to our faculty and staff preparing students with songs, speeches and festive attire, these celebratory lunches would not be possible without all of the parents who volunteered to help on this day.

At the high school, I was proud to attend the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, where 52 students were inducted this year. I would also like to congratulate our fall athletes and coaches for a terrific and exciting season. At last night's Board of Education meeting, the Girls Soccer Team and Coaches, Tim Peabody and Lyn Istorico, were proudly recognized for their NYS Championship win.

Lastly, this month we look forward to our winter concerts in each of our schools. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marco J. Pochini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'P'. The text is set against a light gray rectangular background.