



# Pearl River School District

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**Marco F. Pochintesta**  
Superintendent of Schools

September 5, 2018

Dear Pearl River Parents and Families,

Welcome back and welcome to the 2018-19 school year. As I visited schools and classrooms today it was great to see everyone in good spirits, and ready for a new year of learning despite the hotter than normal conditions.

This summer has been an especially busy and complicated one for our District's facilities and grounds teams. The preparation of the buildings and grounds for the opening of schools is a "heavy lift" under normal conditions. This summer we had the added, but happy burden, of the capital projects construction. With renovations, and newly designed spaces also comes much dust and debris, and the movement of mountains of furniture. All things considered, the buildings and grounds were prepared for the first day of classes. Many thanks to our District teams for their hard work.

This summer, our faculty participated in 240 hours of summer curriculum work and new staff participated in 2 days of professional development in preparation for the new school year. Members of our professional faculty participated in a wide range of curriculum work. Some of the areas of focus included seventh grade science, eighth grade social studies, high school career explorations/Naviance and AP curriculum work in U.S. History, U.S. Government and Politics, World History, and Chemistry.

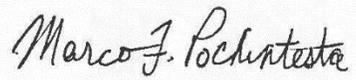
Our technology department has been hard at work since June laying the groundwork for this year's continuation of our one-to-one initiative preparing Chromebooks for students, as well as the instructional technology in classrooms and labs.

Our Superintendent's Conference Day was held yesterday. We welcomed new staff and enjoyed a spirited presentation by Dr. David Rendall. Dr. Rendall's focus and theme for us was the notion that a person's perceived weaknesses may also become a person's strengths. We are challenged to better understand these perceived weaknesses, and create the opportunities and pathways in learning that can allow them to become strengths. The theme of the day seemed well aligned with our mission, that all students can and will learn.

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. Pochintesta". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.