



Pearl River High School

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Dear PRHS Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Last year was certainly a challenge as we were forced to change our approach to teaching and learning. It was a period where we worked to overcome, uniting even stronger as a school community. We shared experiences that were difficult, while discovering new things about ourselves. We gave new meaning to the terms “resilient” and “perseverance”, making both terms deeply personal.

The hallways of Pearl River High School have seen some changes, improvements, and updates. These changes can be seen throughout the science wing, our PRHS Library, the art/technology wing, and in each room along the music corridor. The plan resulted in changes aimed to enhance the educational experience of our students through the improvement of learning spaces in the areas noted. We hope you can share in the excitement of this work by eventually having the opportunity to experience the improvements first hand.

Teachers have been in over the past four days preparing classes, coursework, classrooms, and participating in professional development aimed to assist with the Pearl River School District re-entry plan and our version of the hybrid model. Our staff was proud to have been a leader in this arena last spring; and they are determined to be a leader once again as we enter the new school year. Again, we ask for patience as we enter yet another new challenge placed upon the education system. As in the past, we will work to overcome obstacles that may arise, while creating the experience necessary to maximize learning.

Within the building, we continue to prepare for an environment that establishes the social distancing protocols necessary to maintain a safe environment. Students will find signage and directional arrows in the hallways to help navigate the building. The main stairwell in the middle of the building will be an “up only” stairwell (and will be marked); while most other internal stairwells will be used to travel down. Again, signage will be present to assist with navigation and the teachers understand that this will take some time to learn.

Please log in to the parent portal where you will be prompted to update your contact information including your phone numbers, email addresses, and emergency contact information. Additionally on the parent portal, you will be asked to review and acknowledge the following:

- Summer Health update for your child(ren)
- Technology Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- Internet-based Instructional Resources Policy
- Consent of Publishing
- Receipt of the District Code of Conduct

The 2020-2021 school year starts on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 beginning with remote learning for all students through September 11, 2020. The hybrid model, as detailed on the district website, identifies that students whose last names begin with the letters A-L (Group AA) will begin attending school in person on Monday, September 14, 2020 while those students whose last names begin with M-Z (Group BB) will log on remotely and follow their schedule from home. On Thursday, September 17, 2020 students whose last names begin with M-Z will begin attending school in person while those whose last names begin with A-L will log on and follow their schedule from home. Students should visit the school's webpage to read the student handbook and to familiarize themselves with the school schedule. 1st period begins promptly at 7:34am. When students attend school remotely (either daily or on the AA or BB days), they are not scheduled to be in the school building. Access to their classrooms/lessons will be via Google Classroom. **Students will receive an invitation in their email to join their classes, if they have not already received it.**

Parents and students are reminded that students attend their class session at the time/period the class is scheduled. Failure to attend the class at that time will result in an absence, requiring parent communication. This applies to remote days including Wednesdays. Attendance will be recorded every period of every school day. Absences will impact student work and inevitably student grades and averages. Parent communication with the school is required for all absences as it normally would on any other school day. Please note that our attendance clerk, Mrs. Cara Martin, can be reached at 620-3818. The school counselors and administration will monitor daily attendance and attendance records, requiring conferences if necessary.

It is important to remember that the high school will see a continuation of our rotation of "A" and "B" days, meaning that PE (physical education), science labs, AIS, and other alternating day classes will follow the traditional pattern and take place as noted on the student's schedule. Since Wednesdays are instructional days, albeit asynchronous, this day will continue to be part of the rotation as though we were in school in person. As we go forward, we will continue with asynchronous instruction every Wednesday, meaning that if the schools are off or closed another day of the week, **Wednesday does not** replace that day with in-school synchronous instruction. Wednesdays, beginning 9/9, are asynchronous.

Pearl River High School's schedule for the first three weeks can be seen on the next page:

Week 1 (9/8-9/11) is remote for all students, meaning groups AA and BB will be logged in each day as noted:

9/8 (Tuesday) A-Day Schedule - (**All students** - Group AA & Group BB login to their classes.)

9/9 (Wednesday) B-Day Schedule (**All students** engage in asynchronous lessons/work.)

9/10 (Thursday) A- Day Schedule - (**All students** - Group AA & Group BB login to their classes.)

9/11 (Friday) B-Day Schedule - (**All students** - Group AA & Group BB login to their classes.)

Week 2 (9/14 - 9/18) begins our hybrid model where students begin in-person learning as decided by parent/guardian (stated in advance) as per their group - AA (A-L) or BB (M-Z).

9/14 (Monday) A-Day (Group AA attends school and Group BB logs in to their classes from home.)

9/15 (Tuesday) B-Day (Group AA attends school and Group BB logs in to their classes from home.)

9/16 (Wednesday) A-Day (asynchronous - **all students** engage in asynchronous lessons/work.)

9/17 (Thursday) B Day (Group BB attends school and Group AA logs in to their classes from home.)

9/18 (Friday) A-Day (Group BB attends school and Group AA logs in to their classes from home.)

Week 3 (9/21 - 9/25) continues the pattern of our hybrid model where students continue to attend school in person as decided by parent/guardian (stated in advance) as per their group - AA (A-L) or BB (M-Z).

9/21 (Monday) B-Day (Group AA attends school and Group BB logs in to their classes from home.)

9/22 (Tuesday) A-Day (Group AA attends school and Group BB logs in to their classes from home.)

9/23 (Wednesday) B-Day (asynchronous - **all students** engage in asynchronous lessons/work.)

9/24 (Thursday) A-Day (Group BB attends school and Group AA logs in to their classes from home.)

9/25 (Friday) B-Day (Group BB attends school and Group AA logs in to their classes from home.)

NOTE: The alternating pattern of A-days and B-days as seen in the schedule for the first three weeks continues each week (wk 1 A-B-A-B) (wk 2 A-B-A-B-A) (wk 3 B-A-B-A-B). Off holidays do not count as an A or B day. Students are familiar with pattern.

Please see the following, which will assist in understanding asynchronous Wednesdays:

1. Teachers will assign work to **google classroom/Seesaw** for **each period** that meets that day (before the start of the school day).
2. The teacher-assigned work will be meaningful work and of reasonable volume (This work can be completed in its entirety during the time of the class period).
3. Along with the assignment, teachers will post their class attendance form (same as in the spring) for each google classroom class for that day. Students **MUST** record their attendance. Teachers will then record students' official attendance in the schools' student database.

4. Students must check in to each class they have on Wednesday to get their assignments AND to submit their attendance on the attendance form at the time of each class period but no later than 2:00 pm as that is the start time of our 9th period.

5. Students are expected to complete **all assigned work for that day**. Teacher/class period requirements regarding these assignments will be clearly defined as to what students are expected to complete by the end of each Wednesday.

You are encouraged to call the high school if you have any questions (845 620-3800).

We welcome students back for the 2020-2021 school year!

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murphy

Principal