



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

June 26, 2019

Dear Pearl River School Community,

As the 2018-19 school year draws to a close, we can look back on a lengthy list of accomplishments as well as challenges that have been met. As always with the end of any year, we look ahead with anticipation to the work of the next year and opportunities for improvement and enhancement of the District and how we can better serve the needs of the young people entrusted to our care.

This year, in addition to transitioning to new leadership at the district level in two key areas, curriculum and instruction, and business, we worked our way through financial challenges, making a concerted effort to reducing costs wherever possible, and minimizing the impact on students, and while preserving and where possible strengthening our academic program. The community's support resulted in a very successful budget vote once again, and we are well-positioned for the next school year.

The district responded to community concerns and interests by initiating a K-12 Grade Configuration Study that encompassed all facets of our school program. The outcome of this study has led to several exciting changes that will be implemented in the 2019-20 school year. These changes include smaller teams and a revised PEP schedule in 5th grade, and modified teaming, a central location and special events for our 8th graders as they transition to a high school environment.

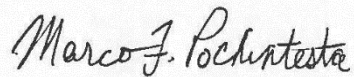
We will continue our work in literacy development for grades K-7. This year's focus has been on writing and it will be complemented by upcoming professional development in reading. Our curriculum work with a new elementary science program piloted this year will be fully implemented in grades K-2 next year and will be piloted in grades 3-4. Also new for next year is an articulated computer science curriculum for grades K-7.

Our 1-to-1 Chromebook initiative is entering its third year. It has been widely well-received by teachers, students and parents. By reassigning some of our existing resources of Chromebook carts we expect to have these devices available during the school day for all students in the district next year.

We improved on safety and security at our schools this year with the completion of secure vestibules at our elementary schools, a new visitors' policy, and a full-time school resource officer for the District. This summer's capital projects work includes the completion of a secure vestibule at the high school at the marquee side of the building. This secure vestibule will be the single point of entry for all visitors to the high school starting in September. Other projects to be completed this summer are the improvements to the high school stadium area: concession stand, press box, bleachers, and lavatory building. Other lower scale improvements will also take place around the district, most notably the resurfacing of paved areas.

I am proud of the work that has taken place this year and commend our teachers, teaching assistants, administrators, and all of the staff members at every school who contribute to making our schools a great place for your children to learn, grow and succeed. I wish all of our Pearl River families a happy and safe summer and look forward to continuing our work in the fall. To those parents who had their youngest child graduate last night from Pearl River High School, I thank you for sharing your children with us and your support of our schools. I am very proud of the Class of 2019, and wish them all great success in their futures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marco J. Pochintesta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'P'.