



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

February 8, 2017

Dear Pearl River Parents,

The Pearl River School District has been a member of the Tri-State Consortium since 1999. This consortium is made up of school districts from the region that aspire to excellence in teaching and learning, and serve one another in the pursuit of excellence through a “critical friends” model. (www.tristateconsortium.org) As a participating member, we benefit from our association with other districts in a variety of ways and perhaps the most important of these is the opportunity for periodic visits by a visiting team of educators from the region. A visiting team contributes to the efforts of the District by helping us reflect on a central and essential question about our work. This year’s visit is scheduled for February 15, 16, and 17. For our visit, we have posed a question about our work on critical thinking and creative problem solving. We hope to come out of the visit with an understanding of what our next steps might be in bringing our work on these two primary 21st Century skills to the next level for our students and our school system.

During the three day visit, a team of educators from a cross-section of the membership will review evidence, visit schools, conduct group interviews and roundtable discussions, to provide feedback on our progress to date. The review and feedback will focus on eight specific indicators across three categories:

- Student Performance
 - Performance-based Assessment
 - Student Metacognition in the Learning Process
 - Student Performance Data
- Internal Support
 - Curriculum and Instruction
 - Professional Learning, Supervision and Evaluation
 - Equitable Support for Student Needs
 - Shared Vision and Environment for Change
- External Support
 - Parent and Community Support

The dialogue and feedback with team members throughout the visit will further support our District’s work in preparing our students as global citizens and life-long learners.

In preparation for a Tri-State’s visit, member districts are expected to gather evidence of their work in advance. A brief survey of parents on the essential question is also a standard practice. Please take a moment to complete the survey located at the following link [Tri-State Parent Survey](#). The survey will be open until Friday, February 10th. Your feedback helps to inform our practice and guides our thinking as we plan for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marco F. Pochintesta'.