



Pearl River School District

135 West Crooked Hill Road
Pearl River, New York 10965
www.pearlriver.org
Phone: 845-620-3920 Fax: 845-620-3927
pochintestam@pearlriver.org



Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

June 12, 2017

Dear Parents,

The district has always valued the feedback that we receive from parents regarding our schools. For many years, the district has utilized a yearly satisfaction survey to obtain feedback from parents. The feedback that we receive on these surveys is one source of information that we consider as we plan the work of the district. Unfortunately, the number of parents who respond to the survey has steadily declined over the years. This, coupled with the type of feedback that we would like to receive, is leading us to make a couple of changes.

This year, instead of using a satisfaction survey, we are going to move to a new instrument developed by the U.S. Department of Education. This survey is called the School Climate Survey (EDSCLS) and was developed by education experts to assess student engagement, school safety and the learning environment. The measurement of school climate will provide us with the necessary data to identify school needs, set goals, and track progress toward improvement.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Education, "School climate is a broad, multifaceted concept that involves many aspects of the student's educational experience. A positive school climate is the product of a school's attention to fostering safety; promoting a supportive academic, disciplinary, and physical environment; and encouraging and maintaining respectful, trusting, and caring relationships throughout the school community no matter the setting—from Pre-K/Elementary School to higher education."

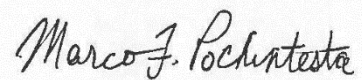
The second change that we are making in the administration of the survey is the manner in which we distribute the survey. In the feedback that we received through our PTA council, it was suggested that we find a way to distribute the survey via email so that parents can submit it electronically when they get it. In addition to streamlining the process and hopefully increasing the response rate, it is a more cost effective approach.

In the past, you received a letter with a code for each child in the household. You logged into the survey from our website and entered a separate code and completed a separate survey for each child. This year, the survey will be sent as a separate email to parents of students at each school

through our K-12 Alert system. For example, if you have a child in the middle school and high school, you will receive two survey emails, one with a link to the high school survey and one with a link to the middle school survey. If you have several children in one school, you will receive one email and will be asked to complete the survey once for that school.

I hope that you will participate in this new initiative. I expect the survey emails to be distributed this week and we ask that you respond by June 30th. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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