



VIA EMAIL

August 6, 2020

Dear PCS Families,

While our plans to start school were developed with the intent of providing our students and families with options for traditional, blended, or remote learning, recommendations from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) were released this week that necessitate a change in our plans for those families who have selected the Traditional or Blended Learning option.

The key reason we are changing our Traditional and Blended Learning plans is based on the isolation and quarantine protocols established by ADPH. Our original plans were based on the premise that 3-6 feet of social distancing and wearing a face covering would not force a quarantine of other students in the classroom when a student or teacher exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive. We now have been told that quarantine will take place for any students who have had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes = 6/15 rule). This protocol could force multiple rolling 14-day quarantines, even if they were just sitting next to a student with symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, etc). [The list of COVID-19 symptoms can be found here](#). In order to minimize quarantines and the possibility of closures of entire classrooms and schools, it is necessary to create 6 feet of distance among students within the classroom. To create the 6 feet distance in our classrooms, we will have to further decrease the density of students in our schools.

Therefore, we will be moving to Contingency Plan A (Staggered Schedule) as outlined in our reopening plan. The Staggered Schedule means that we will divide the students who have selected the Traditional or Blended Learning option into two groups. One group of students will attend school on Monday/Tuesday, the other group will attend school on Thursday/Friday. Wednesdays will be used for teacher planning, meetings, and cleaning in the schools. Students will take part in at-home learning on the days they are not on school campuses. At-home learning will be led by the student's classroom teacher(s) via Google Classroom and remote learning platforms.

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## Important Details:

- The staggered schedule for traditional students will begin on the first day of school, August 19. We will follow the staggered schedule for the first four weeks of the academic year.
- We will continuously monitor the latest health guidance and the numbers of COVID-19 cases in our area. We will proactively communicate with families when we know if the staggered schedule will be extended or discontinued.
- Students with last names that begin with A-L will be the Green Group. Green Group will attend traditional school on Monday/Tuesday each week. They will take part in remote learning Wednesday/Thursday/Friday each week.
- Students with last names that begin with M-Z will be the Gold Group. Gold Group will attend traditional school on Thursday/Friday each week. They will take part in remote learning Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday each week.
- Students who live in the same household but have different last names may attend school on the Green Group schedule. Parents in this situation must contact school principals to notify them.
- Students who have two last names should follow the schedule associated with the first letter of their first last name.
- PLEASE NOTE: Since the first day of school is a Wednesday, we will have an alternative schedule for August 19-21. Green Group will attend on Wednesday, August 19. Gold Group will attend on Thursday, August 20. All students will take part in at-home learning on Friday, August 21.
- Additionally, Pelham High School students who have selected the Blended Learning option are required to attend a meeting on Friday, August 21 from 8-10 am in the Pelham High School auditorium. The meeting will provide details about procedures for checking in and checking out of school, expectations, etc.
- We have prepared a [new version of the school calendar](#) to note the days Green and Gold Groups will attend school. Please note - the week of Labor Day will necessitate a change in the scheduled days for Green and Gold Groups due to the holiday on Monday, September 7.

We've added a [Staggered Schedule FAQ page](#) on our district website. Please take a few minutes to read this important resource of information in detail.

This decision was made with intense consideration of the many factors that we are facing. We remain steadfast in our commitment to provide the students of Pelham with a valuable educational experience while we continue to focus on the health and well-being of our students, staff, and community.

Thank you for your continued patience, flexibility, and support.

Be safe, and stay well.

Dr. Scott Coefield  
Superintendent  
Pelham City Schools