



September 4, 2020

Dear Parents,

This week has given us the opportunity to gain more experience with our learning platforms, listen to feedback, and work diligently on resolving problems and tweaking our existing plans. I hope you've already noticed some of the changes and modifications that are taking place to create a more positive learning experience for our students, families, and staff. We will continue to make changes and improvements as we adapt to conducting school during the pandemic.

We have now completed our second full week of school, and we continue to monitor our COVID numbers to help guide our decision making. As of today, 1.97% of our traditional/blended students are absent from school due to COVID cases or required quarantines. Our staff numbers also continue to be in an acceptable range.

As stated in our Staggered Schedule FAQ, we are communicating with those students/families and staff who have COVID symptoms or positive test results. Only those deemed to have close contact or circumstances that require quarantine will be contacted by Pelham City Schools nursing staff and/or the Alabama Department of Public Health.

We will continue to monitor our data, and a change in the staggered schedule for traditional and blended students will be dependent on another week of acceptable COVID-related data. I hope to be able to announce future changes to the staggered schedule by Friday, September 11. Please remember - we must all be diligent in following health and safety protocols to help keep our COVID cases and quarantines low.

Additionally, we received a supply of face masks from the Alabama State Department of Education this week. Two masks will be distributed to each traditional and blended student in the coming days. We will reserve the remaining masks for distribution as needed during flu season. If your student is a remote learner and you would like to have the masks for use at home, please contact your student's school to make arrangements for pick up.

REMINDER: Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. Traditional and blended students who are in the Green Group will attend school in person on Tuesday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 9. Students in the Gold Group will attend school in person on Thursday, September 10 and Friday, September 11.

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On another note, the United States Department of Agriculture has extended a waiver for the Summer Food Service Program to allow free meals for students through December. Beginning next week, students will not be charged for meals provided through our school cafeterias. This applies to students of all learning options. Changes to the distribution of pick up meals for students will be announced as necessary.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together to adapt and foster positive learning experiences for our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Coefield
Superintendent
Pelham City Schools