



VIA EMAIL

June 16, 2020

Dear Parents,

Please take the time to read and respond to this communication.

From Dr. Coefield:

There are multiple things occurring in our world that may make the 2020 -2021 school year be one of the most challenging years we will ever face. We continue to deal with the uncertainty of the Pandemic and the current social unrest is likely weighing heavily on our minds and hearts. As the leader of our school system, I realize there are things I do not know and strive to learn, but there are a few things I do know with certainty. Parents love their children. Parents want to know their children are safe. Parents want to know their children are with caring adults who will love and guide them to the best of their abilities. Parents want to know their schools have an inclusive, positive culture where all students are respected and valued. Knowing these things and knowing the current status of our world, we must all strive harder to make sure 2020-2021 is a successful year for all students. We will need to adjust how we plan, how we communicate, how we think, and how we carry out our normal routines. With that being said, I want to give you some updates regarding the pandemic and the social unrest.

Regarding the pandemic, it is still, as of now, our intention to start school on August 6th. The Alabama State Department of Education will be unveiling their “roadmap” this Friday, June 19 and school systems will be provided opportunities to clarify and get specific details during the week of June 22 – 26. It is vitally important that you stay connected and participate in any future surveys, virtual presentations, etc. What we need from you today is to respond to this quick survey. We know there are not a lot of details, but your response will help us in the planning process. More detailed information and parent options should be available in July.

Survey Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJEPWuoWYxj1rYSkmzIQSLpRuhGJCCYrgwj5iQMO5VgdYTwQ/viewform>

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Regarding the social unrest, it is indeed a time for us to listen, evaluate our beliefs, and take the type actions that make our world a better place. We are truly fortunate in Pelham to have diversity and kids who are accepting of one another and get along. It has always been one of the things that has impressed me the most about our schools. However, we must not be complacent or blind to the fact that issues exist. Therefore, in addition to the pandemic, our staff will be planning and developing action plans to make sure that the schools in Pelham continue, and improve upon, being a place where all kids feel a sense of belonging, feel empowered to affect change, and learn how to problem solve in productive ways. It is our responsibility to provide a means and framework for these things to happen, and we are committed to sharing some of those ideas prior to the start of school.

I hope all are staying safe and well. Please stay connected to PCS and please respond to the attached survey.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Coefield  
Superintendent  
Pelham City Schools