



September 25, 2020

PCS Families,

Please review the following information for important updates -

Pelham High School Schedule

Beginning Monday, October 5, Pelham High School will return to a 4-day per week schedule for traditional/blended students. Students will attend school on campus Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Traditional/blended students will not attend school on Wednesdays, but they are expected to do coursework remotely. This is the same schedule currently being utilized at Pelham Park Middle School. Students who selected the remote learning option will continue learning at home.

Important: On Wednesday, October 7, all Pelham High School 10th grade students are required to attend school for the Pre-ACT test, which is a mandatory state assessment. More details about test times, school transportation, food service, etc. for this specific date will be sent from Pelham High School prior to the testing date.

Curriculum & Instruction

Providing instruction for remote, blended, and traditional students presents unique challenges. We remain focused on strategies for improving our students' educational experience and continue to make adjustments. As we transition all schools out of the staggered schedule, we will continue to monitor student progress and learning experiences, evaluate the effectiveness of the adjustments that have been made, and plan accordingly.

Based on parent suggestions, we've planned an Online Learning Platforms Training Opportunity on Wednesday, September 30 at the Pelham High School auditorium. Our instructional team will provide guidance and tips about using the online learning platforms, monitoring student progress and grades, and answer your questions.

The elementary session will begin at 5:30 pm and primarily focus on remote learners since traditional students are now in school five days a week. The middle/high session will begin at 6:30 pm and will be pertinent to traditional, blended, and remote learners.

In order to be most efficient with the session time, please submit any questions prior to the session so we can prepare and provide as much support as possible. Submit questions by midnight on Monday, September 28 using this form: <https://forms.gle/7fd9RiTA5PqifZF57>.

Masks and social distancing will be required for all attendees. The sessions will be recorded for those who are not able to attend.

COVID Data

We are being told that the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will be releasing school system COVID data in the future. While we await this data, school systems across the state are taking different approaches to sharing COVID information, some choosing not to share and others publishing complex dashboards. Our approach will be to share summary data that provides an indicator of our COVID status. Remember that we are dealing with complex disclosure rules, and our data is based on cases we are made aware of in the schools and on data reported by parents. So there is a lot of self-reporting, and our information is often dependent on what people tell us, which is a factor that should be considered when evaluating the numbers. Our approach will be to provide a weekly summary until we see the data compiled and released by ADPH and ALSDE.

For the week ending September 25:

We have 4 reported COVID positive cases under quarantine which includes 0 students (0.0% of our on-campus student population) and 4 staff members (1.0% of our staff population).

We have 35 total quarantine cases which include the reported COVID positive cases, close contacts of positive cases, and people who are exhibiting COVID symptoms as identified by the ADPH. These cases include 28 students (1.2% of our on-campus student population) and 7 staff members (1.8% of our staff population).

The precautions that are being taken by our community and our schools have done a great job in limiting our numbers. I'm proud of our students and staff for wearing their masks, adhering to new procedures, and helping us make health and wellness a priority. As we transition our schools back to more of a traditional schedule, it will be important that we remain vigilant in our health and safety precautions. As more students return, we should prepare for the possibility that more quarantines will occur. Please know that we will monitor the information closely, and we will continue our efforts to keep our schools safe and open.

Thank you for your continued patience as we work together to adapt to the challenges we face in light of the pandemic.

Be safe and stay well,

Dr. Scott Coefield
Superintendent
Pelham City Schools