



October 2, 2020

PCS Families,

Please review the following information for important updates -

Pelham High School

- Beginning Monday, October 5, we will be moving away from the Staggered Schedule at PHS and there will no longer be designated Green and Gold days. All traditional/blended students should return on Monday, October 5.
- However, due to previously scheduled e-Learning Days/Parent Conferences on Friday, October 9 and Monday, October 12, traditional/blended students will work remotely on those days. [Reference next week's schedule here.](#)
- Traditional/blended students will not attend school on Wednesdays, but they are expected to do coursework remotely. Please note that on Wednesday, October 7, 10th-grade students and some 12th-grade students will attend school for state assessments. Please refer to communications from PHS for details.
- Beginning the week of October 19 and going forward, traditional/blended students will attend school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and Wednesdays will be an e-Learning Day at home.

October 9 & 12 - eLearning Days & Parent Conferences

Friday, October 9 and Monday, October 12 are designated for eLearning Days & Parent Conferences for all of our schools. Traditional and blended students will do e-Learning from home on those days, and teachers will dedicate the days to meeting with parents. [Click here for a quick glance at the attendance schedule by school for the week of October 5.](#)

Parents of traditional, blended, and remote learners all have the opportunity to make appointments with your student's teachers for personalized conferences. To schedule conferences, please refer to the information that has been sent to parents from your student's school.

COVID Data

Disclaimer: our information is self-reported and often dependent on what people tell us, so that should be considered when evaluating our data. Reporting of system data has been a local decision, and there is no process or consistent format currently required by the state. Comparisons of information from other local systems may not be evaluating the same data sets.

For Pelham City Schools, our numbers are based on current cases that are causing a school absence. Therefore, a positive case or quarantine case will likely be counted for at least two weeks in the data until that person is returned to school.

For the week ending October 2:

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

We have 31 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 31 cases include 28 students (1.2% of our on-campus student population) and 3 staff members (1.2% of our staff population).

As we now move all schools back to more of a traditional schedule, it will be important that we remain vigilant in our health and wellness measures. 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.

Curriculum & Instruction

We sincerely appreciate your patience as we work through the challenges of educating during the pandemic. We have compiled a lot of helpful information on our [Instructional Technology Resources page](#) where you'll find links to our Instructional Technology website, online learning platforms training session video recordings, questions submission form, and more. And, please be sure to talk with your student's teachers and administrators if you have other questions or issues. They are eager to assist and always willing to help. Please see below for a quick summary related to the different schools.

Pelham High School – with traditional/blended students now transitioning out of the Staggered Schedule, our teachers are feeling more comfortable with our learning platforms, and we expect to see continued improvements. Our biggest issue has been student inactivity on some of the self-paced platforms. Teachers look forward to engaging their students 4 days a week and helping to resolve those issues.

Pelham Park Middle School – now that our PPMS traditional/blended students have been in school 4 days for the past two weeks, we have identified issues that require more conversation and planning. Within the next two weeks, I would expect that our faculty has time to collaborate and develop any needed adjustments. PPMS will communicate to parents and students with updates as necessary.

Elementary Schools - from a curriculum standpoint, traditional students have had a more normal learning experience since the return to school 5 days a week.

Given the unprecedented circumstances we have faced, adapting to new methods of instruction while students are being educated through different learning options

(remote/blended/traditional) and situations (staggered/traditional schedules, quarantines) continues to be challenging. We will continue to adjust as needed, and any adjustments will be carefully considered with appropriate review and analysis. Please contact your student's teachers or school administrators if you have questions or concerns.

As for the second semester, I have provided our School Board members with some benchmark dates for the evaluation of our school operations related to learning options. We plan to finalize our evaluation by the end of October, announce any changes by early November, and then ask parents to select their learning option for the second semester in November.

Homecoming T-Shirt Shop

Although Pelham Homecoming will be different this year, you can get in on the spirit of the week with an exclusive Pelham City Schools Foundation t-shirt available for students of all ages, family, and friends. Place orders online by Wednesday, October 7! Shirt proceeds will be used by the Pelham City Schools Foundation to provide additional resources that benefit Pelham City Schools.

[Click here to shop and order.](#)

In Closing

With each day we continue to learn more about providing instruction for traditional, blended, and remote learning simultaneously and managing the safety, health, and wellness aspects of situations related to COVID-19; and each day we learn to lean on each other a little more. Our students, teachers, staff, administrators, and parents regroup each day, face challenges, and Press On. We appreciate your help and patience as we all work to help our students be successful.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Coefield
Superintendent
Pelham City Schools