



# *Pearl City School District*

## *October 2020 Newsletter*

"Inspire in everyone a passion to excel"

District Website  
[www.pcwolves.net](http://www.pcwolves.net)

Dear Parents/Guardians and Pearl City Community Members:

It is hard to believe that we are already into October when this newsletter reaches your house. The start of school has been unprecedented to say the least. However, with the help of everyone in the school district and the community we have been able to have a great start to the school year. Everyone in the district continues to work to align their lessons to fit both the in-person and remote learning students and keep the students safe and healthy.

**Curriculum/Assessment-** Due to the pandemic last year the Spring assessments for the entire state of Illinois were cancelled. Even though we do not have state assessments, the district will be utilizing the AimsWeb and MAP assessments to measure the growth of our students. All of our students have recently taken the AimsWeb and MAP data. We will analyze this data and measure the progress of the students when they again take the AimsWeb and MAP in the winter. We are looking forward to measuring the growth of the students as they progress through the year.

**School Messenger-** Pearl City School District is utilizing the SchoolMessenger automated notification system for families, parents, and/or guardians of children attending Pearl City Elementary School, Pearl City Jr/Sr. High School, Pearl City PASS Program, and Pearl City DayCare Center. SchoolMessenger allows the Superintendent to record a brief message, which can be sent to parents simultaneously. Once the message is recorded, it only takes a few minutes to distribute. The system can be used if school is canceled for the day or if school is dismissed early. If you have any questions concerning the SchoolMessenger emergency notification system or would like a different contact number to be called, please contact your child's building office administrator or administrative assistant.

**Finances-** The district is proud to let the parents and community know that this year the district has a balanced budget. This is an important step for the school district and the community. However, we also need to be aware of the financial mandates that are being added to the school districts in the coming years. There are also some significant improvements that will need to be made to the facilities roofs and parking lot in order to maintain a safe environment for the students. Even with financial concerns, the district has continued to move forward by enhancing educational opportunities in the classrooms. We will continue to provide the best educational opportunities for the students with the funding we receive. Dr. Schiffman will be hosting a Community Forum in Oct. to share the finances of the school district.

**School Board Election-** There are four (four-year term) seats available on the Pearl City School District School Board for anyone interested in running for a position as a school board member in the April 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 Election. Interested candidates may pick up a packet at the Stephenson County Clerk's office in Freeport. You may also go to the website below to see a candidate guide, calendar and Independent Petition Packet for April 6, 2021.

<http://www.co.stephenson.il.us/clerk/elections2020.asp>

It is important to note that the school is no longer the governing agent over the election process. This is now completely controlled by the Stephenson County Clerk. All required documents that need to be completed for a candidate to be placed on the ballot must be turned into the Stephenson County clerk. Petitions can be circulated starting September 22, 2020.

If you have any questions please contact Dr Schiffman at 815-443-2715 or contact the Stephenson County Clerk's Election Office at 815-235-8289.

Dr. Mike Schiffman  
Superintendent Pearl City Schools



## Parent -Teacher Confer- ences

Conferences will be held Wednesday, October 28th from 2:30 pm-7:30pm, and Thursday, October 29th from 2:30 pm- 7:30 pm. Conferences will be facilitated through Google Meets due to COVID restrictions. Please reach out to your child's teacher to begin scheduling a Google Meets time that will work for you. Parent-Teacher conferences give teachers and parents the opportunity to discuss the academic progress, behavior, and social skill development as well as progress towards meeting the grade level benchmarks. Parents have the opportunity to share valuable insights about the child's interest, study skill and homework habits. Together, parents and teachers can work toward making the school year a positive learning experience. The key to a successful conference is preparation-for both the teacher and the parent. Even if the conference is a few weeks away, begin to think about it now. Ask your child what is going well at school and if they have any concerns. Write down questions and prioritize them in case you run short on time. You may want to take notes at the conference, especially if there are things that the teacher asks you to do with your child at home. Remember, the Parent-Teacher Conference is only one way to communicate about your child's progress: notes, phone calls, online through Skyward, and email are also ways to continue to communicate with your child's teacher.

## Elementary Homework Helper

Pearl City School will be offering Homework Helper for students in grades 4, 5, and 6 at no cost. This program is available for students to get extra help on an academic subject, work on homework with a teacher present, or get caught up on missing assignments. Students whose grades fall below a passing grade or who are missing assignments will be requested to attend Homework Helper. Homework Helper will be staffed by one of the elementary teachers and will be available on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m. If your child is having difficulty completing or needs assistance with homework, please consider Homework Helper.

## JH/HS Homework Helper/Study Labs

The Junior High Homework Helper will be offered 4 times per week. The time is from 3:15-4:00. On Mondays and Wednesdays it is in Mrs. Rasmussen's classroom. On Tuesdays and Thursdays it is in Mrs. Pitts's classroom. This is a great opportunity for students to get extra help on things they may be struggling with. Students may also go if they want to get their work done prior to going home. High School Study Labs are on Mondays and Wednesdays with Mrs. Hamilton and Tuesdays and Thursdays with Mrs. Rasmussen. The time for this is at 7:15-7:45am. This is a free program for your students.



### Skyward Family Access

Pearl City Schools have been using Skyward, a software program to manage student information.

Parents can go online and view current grades and assignments. The mobile app is also available.



## School Pictures

Pre-K through Grade 12 pictures are scheduled for Tuesday, November 10th. Pictures must be prepaid, and information will be sent home by the end of October.

### Important Dates to Remember

No School Columbus Day  
Mon, Oct. 12

SAT for all 12th grade Oct. 14  
(make up from last spring)

End of the First Quarter  
Oct. 23

PSAT/NMSQT for  
11th grade—Oct. 29 (optional)

Parent Teacher Conferences Oct.  
28 & 29 from 2:30-7:30. Student  
attendance 8:00-1:00.

Oct. 30, Nov 2 & 3 No School

### Incentives

The faculty and staff of Pearl City School are always continuing to look for ways to motivate and reward our students for exceptional behavior. This year we are offering several different types of incentives. We have the Student of the Month Award and Top Dog Award. Student of the Month is given to a student in each grade level who shows success in and out of the classroom. These students are chosen by the teachers and staff. Top Dog is chosen from teacher nomination on different attributes that we are looking for each month. For example, in September it is for Respect. Teachers and staff vote on the winner and this student is awarded Top Dog! We will also be providing incentives for attendance, good grades and overall behavior. Student of the Month winners for September were;

7th Eden Schubert  
8th Kaydence Miller  
9th Georgia Shallenberger  
10th Addison Bremmer  
11th Sidney Wright  
12th Jenee Stultz  
**TOP DOG ~ Jenee Stultz**  
**Congratulations!!**

## Ensuring Reading and Math Success Through "Well Checks" with AIMSweb Benchmarks Grades K-8

As our children grow, most of us see charts. Our doctors weigh our children and measure how tall they are. This chart shows where our child stands compared to other children and how fast they are growing. These charts help doctors to understand if our children are growing properly or if something may be wrong, enabling them to do something to help as soon as possible.

Doctors use children's height and weight as "Well Checks", or vital signs of development. We all know how important it is for our children to "grow" in reading as well. In fact, successfully learning to read at an early age is probably one of the most important factors in a child's learning, both inside and outside of school.

Because reading and reading growth are so important, on a regular basis, our school is going to give you "Well Check" information indicating how well your child is reading. We now know what the goals of the reading "Well Checks" should be, and will give this information to you three times per year. Generally, the first "Well Check" was given within the first few weeks of school.

The reading "Well Checks" are simple and accurate. We will have your child read 3 stories from passages comparable to their grade level and we will count the words they read correctly, as well as how well they read the stories. The "Well Checks" take less than 5 minutes. We like to think of it as taking your child's reading temperature.

Teachers will use these "Well Checks" to help them plan their reading instruction. This information will also help them individualize for students who are above or below average in their reading abilities. The "Well Check" information for your child will be put on a chart, and your child's teacher will explain it to you at conference time.

In Winter, your child's teacher will do another "Well Check" to see if an improvement in your child's reading ability has been made. This chart will indicate what your child's score was in the fall and what your child's score is in Winter.

These reading "Well Checks" will be done again during the last several weeks of school (Spring). We will then be able to inform you of how much reading growth your child has made throughout the year, and what may be needed in order for your child to become a truly successful reader.

As a school staff, we are excited about our ability to know where all of our students are at on their path to being successful readers and learners. We hope that you are excited as well. We also look forward to seeing and talking with you regarding the progress of your child.



The **YMCA BlueFins Swim Team** offers fun, fitness, and friendship to swimmers who can swim one length of the pool and are looking to improve stroke technique, build endurance, grow as a competitive swimmer. BlueFins is open to swimmers age 5 - 18

**DIVE IN!  
JOIN THE TEAM!  
JOIN THE FUN!**

Family YMCA of NWIL  
BlueFins Swim Team

2-Week  
FREE  
Trial!

Informational  
Meeting:  
September 16  
@ 6PM

**Questions or to RSVP for the informational meeting:**

**Call Alyssa at 815-235-9622**

2020 October

Menu



Pearl City Schools

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30 Sep 30	1	2	3
				Donut Hamburger	Grab and Go Lunch	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Chocolate Croissant Salisbury Steak	Cinnamon Cake Nachos	Pretzel Bites Potato Soup	Biscuits & Gravy Orange Chicken & Egg Roll	Grab & Go Lunch		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Cinnamon Rolls Taco Casserole	Egg Sandwich Chicken Dumpling Soup	Dutch Waffle Shredded Beef	Grab and Go Lunch		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Breakfast Pizza MiniCorn Dogs	Waffles Tacos	Cereal Chili	Donut Pizza	Grab and Go Lunch		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Cinnamon Cake Popcorn chicken	Mini French Toast Taco bites	Scrambled Eggs Chicken Noodle or Broccoli Cheese	Chocolate Croissant Tenderloin	Grab and Go Lunch		
Nov 1	2	<p><b>*Calendar is subject to change*</b>                      Lunch is Offer vs. Serve                      Each meal is provided with Milk &amp; Whole Grain Bread/Breading</p>				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Boys Golf @	28 Baked Mostaccioli Breakfast Pizza	29 Pop Tart Taco Bites 8am - NUIC Girls	30 Chicken Strips Mini French Toast 4pm - Boys & Girls	1 Donut Hamburger 8am - NUIC Boys	2 Grab and Go Lunch	3
4	5 Chocolate Croissant Salisbury Steak	6 Boys Golf Cinnamon Cake Nachos	7 Girls Golf Potato Soup Pretzel Bites	8 Biscuits & Gravy Orange Chicken &	9 Grab & Go Lunch	10 Boys Golf
11	12 Columbus Day Girls Golf Indigenous Peoples' No School	13 Cinnamon Rolls Taco Casserole	14 Chicken Dumpling Egg Sandwich	15 Dutch Waffle Shredded Beef	16 Grab and Go Lunch	17
18	19 Breakfast Pizza MiniCorn Dogs	20 Tacos Waffles	21 Cereal Chili 6:30pm - Board of	22 Donut Pizza	23 End of 1st Quarter Grab and Go Lunch	24
25	26 Cinnamon Cake Popcorn chicken	27 Mini French Toast Taco bites	28 Chicken Noodle or Scrambled Eggs 2:30pm - Parent/Teacher Conferences 1pm - Early	29 Chocolate Croissant Tenderloin 1pm - Early	30 Grab and Go Lunch No School	31 Halloween