



Pearl City School District

December 2020 Newsletter

District Website: www.pcwolves.net

"Inspire in everyone a passion to excel"

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

The school year is already into the second quarter, with the semester due to end the beginning of January. I guess either I am getting older because time is flying by or maybe we are just having fun. I am believing it is because we are having fun in the district. I want to share a few things that are going on in the district.

E-Learning Plan

Recently, the Pearl City School Board approved the use of e-Learning days to replace severe weather or emergency days. Therefore, instead of having a snow day and going later into the school year the district will utilize the e-Learning Plan. This plan is the same as what we currently do on Friday's during Remote learning. The district will still utilize the School Messenger system to notify parents of the e-Learning Day. You can find the e-Learning plan at the following link.

[http://www.pcwolves.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server_110375/File/District%20Information/E-Learning%20Plan/PC%20E-learning%20plan%202020%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.pcwolves.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server_110375/File/District%20Information/E-Learning%20Plan/PC%20E-learning%20plan%202020%20(1).pdf)

Levy

The Pearl City School Board approved an estimated tax levy at the November board meeting. This year's levy is asking for a 4.96% increase. Please understand that the district does not receive what we ask for in the estimated levy, we only receive what the PTELL (Tax Cap) law allows. PTELL will limit the district's rate at 2.3% (Consumer Price Index), but levying a higher rate ensures that the district will also receive any increases in EAV and any new construction. If a taxing body requests in its levy a dollar amount over 5% a Truth and Taxation Hearing must be held prior to the adoption of the tax levy in December. Since the school district is requesting 4.96% it does not need to conduct a public hearing, but the district will still conduct a hearing as a means to remain completely transparent. The public hearing will be held on Dec. 16th at 6:20pm in the high school cafeteria.

Academic Success

The Pearl City School District received some great news this past month regarding the academic success of the district. All of the schools in Pearl City have been recognized as commendable schools. The Illinois State Board of Education provides many ways to measure the success of students and school performance. This information can be found on the Illinois State Report Card, which can be found at www.illinoisreportcard.com. The Pearl City School District is above the state average in all of the academic measurements. One of the specific measurements is to show what percentage of freshman are on track to graduate. The state defines freshman on track as students who have five full-year course credits and no more than one failing grade in English, math, science, or social studies. According to nationwide studies, students on track to graduate at the end of their freshman year are nearly four times more likely to graduate from high school as students who are not on track. The state average is 89% of freshman on track. Pearl City School District has 100% of students on track to graduate. We also have 40% of our students taking Early College Courses. The Pearl City graduation rate is also at 86%. There are many other measurements that you can find at the website listed above.

Citizenship

There are so many ways that the students of Pearl City show citizenship in the communities. Many of our classes have written letters to veterans and currently military personnel. Students in different organizations have created food and clothing drives in the district. Our high school students are required to complete a set number of community service hours each school year.

As you can see there are a lot of great things going on in the Pearl City School District. The district is very proud of all of the hard work and dedication that the educators, coaches, students and parents put into all aspects of the district. Thank you for continuing to support the Pearl City School District. We will continue to move from good to great.

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 6th 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. Petition packets are due by December 14th.

**Important Dates
to Remember**

Dec. 3rd
No PASS Classes

Dec. 7th, 8-10am
8th Grade Pancake Breakfast
At Applebee's \$5

Dec 15th -18th
HS Finals Open Campus

Dec. 18th
End of 2nd Quarter
Early Release 1:00

Dec. 21st-Jan 1st
Winter Break

Jan. 4th
School Resumes for Students

Winter Clothing

Winter clothing is an important part of winter fun. The elementary students will be going outside for recess as often as the weather permits. Coats, hats, snow pants, boots, and mittens or gloves are a must. Due to Current Covid restrictions, Nurse Kim will not be able to allow students to borrow any of these items.

Please send your children dressed appropriately for all conditions. Also, please have winter clothing for your

children to use during recess.

Having Gym shoes to change in to in case their shoes get wet is also vey helpful.



**November
Student of the Month
for JH/HS
&
Top Dog for HS**

**7th Xander Krolow
8th Paige Hille
9th Ava Bremmer
10th Laine Rosenstiel
11th Oliver Petta
12th Carter Brudi**

**Top Dog
Caitlin Niesman**

High School Semester Finals

As in previous years, semester finals will be prior to break. The finals will begin on Monday, December 14th. This will be a full day of school. Then beginning on Tuesday, December 15th, Pearl City will have open campus. Students will only be required to come to school when they have a final. The schedules for finals will be posted on the website and students received a paper copy on November 25th during their 3rd period class. Finals count for 15% of the students' semester grade. Please make sure your child knows when his/her finals are. If a student misses a final, they will receive a zero on that final. Students must also be on time to their final.



Virtual Concert December 2nd

Watch for the links posted on pcwolves.net



Pearl City Technowolves Lego League

. The Pearl City Technowolves Lego League team continues to persevere through these unusual times. With the world-wide theme "RePlay," teams this season must find a problem concerning negative effects of not moving/exercising enough (our focus is depression), innovating a solution that involves technology, and presenting that idea in the form of a skit that includes research. Also, the table missions for the robot game focus on methods of exercising that could incorporate more fun to encourage movement. Due to the current pandemic situation, the team must submit videos through a timeline, so all the competitive portions take place remotely.

This year's team members include: Kendra Kuhlemeier (8th), Natalie Greene (8th), Xander Krolow (7th), Kayden Martin (7th), Tana Gravert (7th), Mackenzie Lotz (6th), Tristan Ertmer (6th), and Brogan Keltner (5th). While this season may look like no others in the past, coding, research, and fun continue to take place. Go, Technowolves!



Read, Read and Read Some More!

Take some time to enjoy a good book with your child. No matter their age, read to them, read with them, read and discuss what you are reading, model for your child daily. READ, READ, READ. Admire the book by noticing the cover, pictures and other features. Who wrote it? Who illustrated it? To whom is it dedicated? Take your time instead of flying through pages, turn them slowly to build anticipation. What will happen next? Can you guess? Talk about it. What did you and your child think of the story? Did you agree? You don't have to agree. Do you want to read another book about the same topic or maybe the same author?

When you read with your child, especially with excitement, you show how much fun reading can be. That is a gift that can last a lifetime.

Also please work with your children through their work and reading. Parent interested and participation helps students to be successful in their school work.



Elementary Young Author Program

Everyone should be thinking about story ideas for their Young Author's book. More information will be coming about due dates and requirements. These books will be judged and a representative will be selected to represent Pearl City School at the Illinois Young Author Conference in Bloomington, IL. in May.

AT-HOME HABITS LEAD TO SCHOOL SUCCESS

To support your child's learning experience:

Establish sleep routines. Kids who get enough rest are better able to concentrate and follow rules.

Have them clean out their backpack daily.

You're sure to find important papers, notes, permission slips and maybe a leftover snack.

Keep a class schedule handy. This makes it easy to ask specific questions about school, such as, "What did you do in P.E. today?" Logging into Skyward to see what kinds of assignments they are doing could also be a good conversation starter.

Get organized. Does your child always know where to find their backpack, jacket, glasses, shoes and other items? Pick a special place to keep them. Do they know where they are going after school, so they are not worrying about that all day when they should be concentrating on lessons.

Practice manners. Role-play challenging situations. "You and a classmate disagree about who is first in line. What should happen next?" Give them positive words to use when they are upset.

Answer questions. Encourage your child to ask you-and their teachers-if they are confused. "What does this mean?"

Read together. In addition to reading to your child and listening to them read, read the same books separately and discuss them.

Make a study spot. Choose a comfortable homework location. Stay nearby to offer support and supervision. Come up with a study schedule with an ending time. Remember home work should equal 10 minutes x their grade level—1st grade 10x 1 = 10 min. 2nd 10 x 2 = 20 min. 3rd 10 x 3 = 30 min. 4th 10 x 4 = 40 min. 5th 10 x 5 = 50 min. 6th 10 x 6 = 60 min. This is an average amount of time for each night. We all know that some nights will have less homework and some nights might have more. If you child has more than this regularly—contact their teacher.



Missing School Means Missing out on Learning

A missed day here, a missed day there. Does being absent really affect learning? "Yes!" say experts. When kids miss too much school, everyone suffers. Absent students may fall behind, and catching up distracts from lessons and may be disruptive to the rest of the class. Some absences are unavoidable, of course, but it helps when families:

- Please talk to your child's teacher concerning make-up homework
- Prepare at night. Choose outfits, pack lunches and prepare school bags at night. Get to bed on time and set a morning alarm. Fall asleep relaxed, knowing you're ready for the next day.
- Streamline mornings. Wake up at the same time each day and stick to a routine. If your child tends to forget certain responsibilities, make a chart to keep them on track. Take family pride in being prompt.
- Avoid conflicts. When possible, schedule appointments and trips when school isn't in session. If your child needs to miss school, notify the school and ask about make-up work.
- Learn school procedures. Find out when students should stay home from school and the difference between excused and unexcused absences, check the handbook or ask school personnel.



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