

Greeting Pershing Pandas!

We are finishing week two of school and I must say how incredibly proud I am of the students, faculty, staff, and parents. We have had a very successful start to the school year, despite all the challenges we face. As I walk the building and classrooms each day, I see students and teachers engaged in authentic learning experiences. I truly believe that both the teachers and students are enjoying face-to-face instruction once again.

As we move into the Labor Day weekend, I wanted to share a few items with you.

Schedule Change Requests

All submitted schedule change requests have been processed. You and/or your child should have received communication from the counselors regarding any approved or denied schedule changes.

Back to School Forms

Each year HISD has several back-to-school forms that need to be completed. We sent a few home in first-day packets and have received quite a few of those back. If you have not had an opportunity to complete them, you can do so online through the Parent Portal. Click [Back to School Forms](#) to access directions and more information.

- **Socioeconomic Information Form** - The Socioeconomic Information Form impacts the amount of Title 1 funds (almost \$270,000) we receive, affecting our school budget. It is important that we receive this form as soon as possible. Title I funds pay for faculty positions, tutorials for students, technology in the classrooms, summer school, and school supplies.
- **Student Assistance Questionnaire**
- **Student Change of Address**
- **Privacy Code: Student Records, Rights, and Responsibilities**
- **Family Survey**
- **Military-Connected Survey**

In addition to the above forms, there is also an HB4545 waiver. This summer House Bill 4545 was passed. The law requires schools to provide accelerated instruction to all students who failed the STAAR test last year. Part of the requirement is that the student to teacher ratio not be more than 3:1. The waiver allows us to increase the ratio so that we can best serve all our students. Even if your student does not require accelerated instruction, we ask that you complete the waiver so that we have it.

Carpool Drop-off & Pick-up

I am asking that everyone please visit our carpool drop-off and pick-up procedures by visiting our website. <https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/189908>. We have several parents who are stopping on Stella Link to drop-off or pick-up their child. The Constable has notified me that he will be pulling parents over and ticketing them for doing so. Also, our parking lots are not drop-off or pick-up areas. Please make sure that if you are dropping off or picking up that you use Blue Bonnet in front of the school. Braes Blvd is for the unloading and loading of buses only. Please also be aware of the no parking signs along Braes and Blue Bonnet during certain times of the day. Again, the Constable will begin ticketing cars that are parked in no parking zones.

COVID

Pershing has reported few confirmed cases of COVID. In the event your child tests positive, please email or call Nurse Macomber (dmacombe@houstonisd.org). Please do not email your child's teachers. HISD has a process in place for contact tracing and the nurse must be notified so that we can begin the process immediately. Make sure you include in your email when the first symptoms appeared. Also, current HISD guidelines state we are only notifying those students who are directly impacted by the positive student. This means a general communication will not be sent out; however, you can visit the HISD COVID Dashboard to see cases. If the guidelines change, we will be sure to follow what the district requires.

Temporary Online Learning

HISD's Temporary Online Learning is available to any student who has tested positive or must quarantine due to exposure. To help streamline the process, if your child is identified during contact tracing as needing to quarantine, we will automatically enroll them in temporary online learning. The nurse may ask you if you need a device and/or hotspot. If you do, we will get notify you when it is ready to pick up. Please keep in mind that the devices need to be returned once your child returns to school. Temporary Online Learning allows your child to continue to do work in their core classes and be counted present for the day. The work assigned is done so by the district and any grades students receive for that work will be passed on to their regular teacher here at Pershing. Several parents have reached directly out to the teachers. Teachers will not be providing work to students who are enrolled in Temporary Online Learning.

For more information on Temporary Online Learning, please visit <https://www.houstonisd.org/home>

House Bill 4545

As I mentioned before, HB4545 applies to accelerated instruction required for all students who failed STAAR in the spring. The law states that we must provide 30 hours of accelerated instruction outside of the normal class times for each STAAR subject failed. We are currently working on a plan to handle the majority of this during the school day. Also, any student who did not take the STAAR in the spring will be taking the TEA Beginning of Year assessment in the next few weeks. Students who pass the BOY will not have to participate in accelerated instruction. Please be on the lookout for more information regarding HB4545 and how we plan to implement the requirements at Pershing Middle School.

Open House

This year's Open House will be virtual and will take place on Wednesday, September 22 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. We will send more information on how Open House will work as we get closer to the date.

PTO

I want to take a moment to send a huge shout out to all the PTO volunteers who were here working the school store before school started as well as over the past two weeks. Your help is very much appreciated, and Pershing wouldn't be the school it is without the support provided by our fantastic PTO.

I look forward to the months ahead. Just as a reminder, there is no school on Monday, September 6th. We also have our fall holiday on Thursday, September 16th and then students will be off again on Friday, September 17th while teachers have teacher in-service.

As always, please reach out to your child's teachers, counselor, assistant principal, or me if you need any assistance or have questions.

Have a great weekend!

Steven Shetzer, Principal