



# John J. Pershing Elementary

## *'Home of the Panthers'*

Hello Pershing Panther Families,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 2021-22 school year. The Pershing staff has waited with great anticipation to welcome all students back on campus. There is great excitement in the air as we prepare to work with you and your child collaboratively this new school year. Our dedicated staff has been working hard to prepare for the return of students, while continuing our focus on safety, care, and connection. At Pershing we are committed to empowering our community to show its **Panther Paw Pride**. Pershing is a positive environment of **Safe** and **Responsible** learners who show **Respect** and have **Panther Pride**.

School begins at 8:00 am and concludes at 2:45 pm. The campus opens at 7:30 am with the first bell ringing at 7:55 am. We ask that you do not have your child arrive at school prior to 7:30 am as the campus is locked and there is no student supervision. Breakfast is served from 7:30am-7:55am so please arrive at 7:30am to ensure your child has plenty of time to eat their meal. We will have early outs for all students on Tuesday, August 17, and 24 and during Parent/Teacher Conference Weeks. Students will be released at 1:10 pm. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up at 1:10 on those three days.

Careful planning has taken place in bringing our staff and students back to a safe environment. The safety of everyone is our top priority. To provide the safest environment possible, we will continue to require face coverings (optional if outdoors), use increased disinfecting practices, and promote frequent hand washing/hand sanitizing. Additionally, parents will need to complete the daily health screener in Parent Square prior to students reporting to school. Your child will not be allowed to enter their class if the screener is not complete. If your child is not feeling well or exhibiting any symptoms listed in the screener, please do not send your child to school. If your child is absent, please contact the office or reply to the automated message from Parent Square.

Beginning August 16th, all visitors will need to report to the office prior to coming on campus. We are asking all families to conduct school business as much as possible through phone, email, and Parent Square. We ask that visitors only come to the office when school business and or concerns cannot be conducted through phone, email, or Parent Square. Students can be dropped off or picked up utilizing the pick-up/drop-off lane in the parking lot. Staff will help to ensure your child gets to their designated area. Kindergarten parents who wish to pick up their kinder child/siblings directly from a kinder teacher can park along Ericho or Ellis Street and walk up to the kinder gate (directly in front of kinder playground) where they will be dismissed to their designated adult.

It is important to maintain consistent productive communication with your child's teacher as well as the school. Parent Square will be the primary communication platform for Pershing, as well as Madera Unified. If you are not signed up for Parent Square, please go to your Parent Portal and make sure there is an email address for the first contact listed. You can also download the free Parent Square app. Make sure you sign in with the same email listed in Aeries Parent Portal.

Thank you in advance, for all of your support that you demonstrate for your child and the entire Panther community. Please contact the school if you have any questions. I look forward to another great year!

Regards,  
Mrs. DeLaPeña

