

Pella Middle School

*Maximizing Life's
Opportunities for
Every Child*

May & June 2015



Dates to Remember:

2014-2015 School Year

June 10 Reports Cards Live on
Infinite Campus

2015-2016 School Year

August 1 Schedules Available
August 24 First Day of School
September 3

1. Meet the Teacher
2. 1:1 Laptop Roll-out
3. Parent Meeting - Athletics

May 2015 Newsletter

Report cards are published on Infinite Campus!

As one year ends, we prepare for another to begin; we have much to celebrate! We are so proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff during this past school year. The class of 2019 is a special class with immense character and strength academically, athletically, and in fine arts. We will miss their leadership and inspiration next year. The class of 2020 will slide right into the void they have left, and we are confident in their abilities to do so. They continue to grow and shine! The incoming 7th grade class has already demonstrated their desire to succeed at the middle school level during orientations, and we are extremely excited for them to join our team.

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All Students



Mrs. Kilby Retires

Mrs. Jackie Kilby has served Pella Middle School for 19 years, and she has served in education for 39 years. We are all better because Mrs. Kilby was a part of our team.

Although Mrs. Kilby is retiring, she will not be slowing down. She plans to spend a lot of time at her cabin in Northern Minnesota with her parents, husband, children, and grandchildren. She has carved canoes out of wood and plans to spend a lot of time in the water utilizing them, and she has a 500-mile hike in Spain planned for later this summer. We are excited to hear about this adventure. Thank you Mrs. Kilby, and we will see you soon!



7th grade students enjoy a barbecue thanks to their winter concession stand profits.



Special thanks to Mrs. Schulz for organizing this, and Blake Recker's dad, Dr. Eric Recker, for assisting. There were many other teachers and staff who helped to make this a success!

Middle School Student Council cleans highway 163



Student Counsel Cleans Up!

Mrs. Pentico, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Tjeerdsma, and Mr. Manning had the privilege of partnering with the 7th and 8th grade student council members to clean a stretch of Highway 163 during final days of school. The 8th grade is upper left, Jack Stratton is upper right, 7th grade students are center picture, and the 7th grade members are in the bottom right corner. Thank you and great job!



Character Counts!

Congratulations to Olivia VanderLeest and Nicholas Schmitz honored with Character Counts awards for the 8th grade class.

Here is how they were selected:

Students in 8th grade who demonstrate the Pillars of Character are nominated by middle school staff, and all students nominated get a congratulatory nomination letter sent to their parents. After their nominations, students are invited to apply for the character counts awards. The Character Counts Community Board then determines one boy and one girl as the winner for this year's awards. Olivia and Nick both selected foundations to donate \$50 on their behalf. Once again, congratulations to both of these students; they are outstanding ambassadors for the district, and they are both well deserving students.



Staff Transitions for 2015-2016

Leaving:

John Carey – Band Director

Alex Knoot – Resource Teacher

Jackie Kilby – 7th Science Teacher

Melissa Wimmer – 7-12 G&T Teacher

Catherine Ferguson – Secretary

Kelsey Boot – Teacher Associate

Curt Edwards – Teacher Associate

Rachelle Harris – Teacher Associate

Laryssa Klein – Teacher Associate

Incoming:

Andrew Bentz – 1 period 8th Science

Amber Hermanson – Resource Teacher

Alexis Kraayenbrink – Orchestra Teacher

Gabe Schott – Band Director

Jeff Siewert – 7-12 G&T Teacher

Danielle Bortscheller – Secretary

Mollie Groenendyke – Teacher Associate

Jessica Larson – Teacher Associate

Amber Lyle – Teacher Associate

Charon DenAdel – Teacher Associate

Familiar Faces w/ New Roles

Susan Lyons – .5 Time 7th Science

Josh McCollam – PLTW

Schedules for Next Year

Current 8th grade students' 9th grade schedules were handed out the final week of the school year. Please look over your students' schedules with them. Changes can possibly be made by emailing one of the high school counselors. These schedules are not set in stone, as high school classes still need to be balanced; students should view their schedules on Infinite Campus again before school begins.

Incoming 7th and 8th grade students' schedules will be available on Infinite Campus in August. Please call Anne Pentico if you have questions about your students' schedules.

Learning is not a spectator sport.

Middle School Track Volunteers at State Track Meet

Coach Randy Wilson took our 7th and 8th grade students to the state track meet to assist with the running and operation of the meet. This proved to be an outstanding volunteer opportunity for our students, and the state meet directors had nothing but excellent remarks about the service our students provided. They worked diligently to get hurdles set, sand raked, shot put and discs recovered, and they were tremendous assets to the meet. Thanks,

Coach Wilson, for the opportunity, and thank you Pella Middle School students for once again for representing our school and your families with character and hard work. We are very proud of you all!



Above: 8th Grade

Right: 7th Grade



Counselor's Connection

Seven Ways to Prepare for Middle School and High School Transitions

By Ann Schimke

Q: What can I do to help my children make the transition to middle school and high school?

Whether it's sixth grade or ninth, graduating to a new level usually means bigger buildings, larger student bodies, more choices and more freedom. Along with excitement, students can feel anxiety, frustration and isolation. We spoke with several veteran middle and high school educators who gave us the following advice for how parents can help their children make a smooth transition.

To find the remainder of the article go to the link listed below.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jbhNNq-j-1rUsnlg6Zfg3oE6M1702z_aAI3fUTdljA0/edit

Thank you, Mrs. Pentico

2014 - 2015 Approved District Calendar:

<http://www.pellaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/14-15District-Calendar.pdf>

Activities/School Calendar - has ALL 2014 - 2015 district activities updated on it

http://www.littlehawkeyeconference.com/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5genie=206&school_id=4

Middle School Specific Site:

<http://www.pellaschools.org/schools/middle-school/>

Middle School Handbook:

https://docs.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/document/d/1JuW6bmJiBZ9Mm9dhi-Xt_edleW_AyeOL8LxE7sc2S4I/edit

Pella 1:1 Handbook:

https://docs.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/document/d/1QyO3_S4OmTFuauYwSz6IXI5SsjYh68y-h9K8qZ6M5VM/edit

Middle School Band:

<https://sites.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/pella-middle-school-band/>

Pella Digital Learning Environment (DLE) Link:

<http://pcsd-dle.blogspot.com/>