

Pella Middle School

*Developing
Stronger
Relationships*

September 2015



Dates to Remember:

- 9/30 PD – 90 min early dismissal
- 10/2 Homecoming vs Carlisle
- 10/6 Picture Day!
- 10/7 PD – 90 min early dismissal
- 10/8 Parent Teacher Conferences
3:30 – 7:00
90 min early dismissal
More Information Below
- 10/13 90 min early dismissal
Elementary Conferences
- 10/16 No Classes
- 10/23 End Quarter 1
- 10/28 Quarter 1 grades posted
Semester 1 midterm posted

September 2015

We have a fantastic group of students at Pella Middle School! They are kind and fun, and we love their energy. Talk with your child about how he/she feels about middle school. If there are any concerns, remember we have several resources for help, academically and emotionally. We want our students' middle school years to be positive ones; let us know if there is anything we can do to help make that happen! Thank you, as always, for your support and for participating in your student's education; we appreciate your partnership!

Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child

All Students

Fall 2015 Parent Teacher Conferences

September 24, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We welcome and encourage all middle school students and parents to join us for conferences on Thursday, October 8, and Monday, November 9, from 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Each teacher will personally invite certain students and/or parents via phone, email, or hard copy. Please respond to your invitation at your earliest convenience. If you or your student does not get a personal invite for conferences, please know we welcome and encourage all to attend.

Schedules will be posted on all teachers' doors. You may sign up during the days of conferences on a vacant time slot, or feel free to email any teacher with whom you wish to meet. This is an opportunity to understand and support your student's needs and for teachers to answer questions you might have. We appreciate your participation and partnership in your student's education.

Schedule:

- October 8 - 90 Minute Early Dismissal *Conferences 3:30 - 7:00 PM
- October 8 and 13 - District-wide 90 minute early dismissal for K-6 conferences
- October 16 - No Classes
- November 9 - Full school day *Conferences 3:30 - 7:00 PM

Respectfully,

Josh Manning, Principal

Extra iStudy Opportunities

Need extra help? We have several before, during, and after school iStudy options.

1. Before School: 7:45 – 8:15 in Mr. Anderson's Room
2. During School: Every Period
3. Lunch Time: Students may stay in the cafeteria during recess.
4. After School: 3:15 – 4:00 MTRF and Wednesdays 1:45 – 2:30 in the Learning Street (Fish Bowl – room 207)

***Mrs. (Carrie) Blommers does a great job in iStudy helping students stay on top of their tasks. This year we are going to have any students with three late assignments in one subject or five late assignments in all subjects stay for after school iStudy.*

All Students

Get Involved!

Fall activities are well under way, and we already have over 50% of our students participating in a fall extra or co-curricular activity. Involvement correlates with a sense of belonging, and it can also have a positive impact on a student's attendance and grades. Encourage your student to participate and get involved! There are relevant life lessons to be learned from these experiences and teaming opportunities!

FALL Sports Participation Numbers

1. 7th Cross Country = 27
2. 8th Cross Country = 22
3. Total Cross Country = 49
4. 7th Football = 46
5. 8th Football = 40
6. Total Football = 84
7. 7th Volleyball = 34
8. 8th Volleyball = 28
9. Total Volleyball = 62

TOTAL Fall Sports Participants = 197/356

FINE ARTS Participation Numbers

1. 7th Band = 55
2. 8th Band = 44
3. Total Band = 99
4. 7th Choir = 99
5. 8th Choir = 86
6. Total Choir = 185
7. 7th Orchestra = 18
8. 8th Orchestra = 19
9. Total Orchestra = 37

TOTAL Fine Arts Participants = 321/356



No Significant Learning Occurs without a Significant Relationship

All Students

Student Council Announced

We are excited to share with you our 2015-2016 student council members. Student council, students and staff, will work together to make Pella Middle School a better place to learn and grow as students and people.

Eighth grade members include:

Annaleigh Babcock, Ellie Howard, Hannah Kendall, Hailey Kowzan, Grayson Parisee, Jake Schulte, Jack Stratton, and Noah Zeimet.

Seventh grade members include:

Abbi Adrian, Ashley Blommers, Faith Diers, Alyssa Geetings, Kaina Geetings, Elyse Kriegel, Travis Mitchell, Isaac Piersma, and Macy Schulz.

Handicap Parking

Please avoid parking, loading, and unloading in the handicap parking spaces in front of the building. We have a larger number of students with special needs, and we need to have those spots left open at all times for those students and their transportation. Thank you for your support with this.



Nobody Cares How Much You Know...

Until They Know How Much You Care.

I need your help!

I am looking for parents to help me with my principal evaluation. I am piloting a new tool that I will use on a quarterly basis. Students and teachers will also assist me, and I have several names I did not reach out to last year that I hope to reach this year. I have five questions I want your feedback on, and it should only take 10-15 minutes. My hope is to improve in all capacities, and I believe many of you can help me do so. Please email me, I will call you, and we can pilot this new tool. Thank you in advance for your willingness to assist!

Respectfully, Mr. Manning



PEARLS OF LOVE AND LOGIC

Special Thoughts on Raising Kids

*Presented by:
Families First of Pella*

Getting Ready for School

"How many times do I have to call you? You get yourself moving! You're going to be late for school!" These are the desperate sounds of a frustrated parent trying to hurry a youngster through the morning ritual called "getting ready for school." Unfortunately, this child is moving at a snail's pace. This drama, played out in many homes every morning, starts the day off with a battle.

Children find creative ways to tell their parents how they feel. They seldom use words. Most often, they use actions to let us know they don't like the way things are being handled. Nothing is more confusing or frustrating to parents.

It would be much easier to be a parent if children would talk to us and say things such as, "I want to be able to think for myself. I'm dragging my feet so you can see that reminders won't work with me." However, they don't do this, their way of getting us to understand is to use actions such as slowing down when we push.

Parents aren't mind readers, so it's natural to misread their child's actions and assume that they are lazy or don't care. The natural reaction is to then push, punish, or remind them to change their behavior. The child then increases the actions to show that the parent is wrong, and the battle is on.

The first hour of the day is the very best time to teach children to be responsible by allowing them to do most of their own thinking. It's also the time when parents can let their children do most of the work, since most jobs at that time of the day *really belong to the children.*

Use Consequences Instead of Threats and Anger


Guideline 1: Decide which jobs belong to the parent and which belong to the youngster -Jobs like setting the alarm the night before, waking up to the alarm, choosing clothes, dressing, washing, watching the clock, remembering lunch money and school supplies, and even deciding how much to eat really belong to the child. That doesn't leave much for the parent.

The only person who should suffer consequences if these jobs are neglected is the youngster. Let the school provide the consequences when the child is late.

Guideline 2: Stay out of the reminder business - Reminders rob children of the opportunity to make the mistakes needed to learn the lessons.

Guideline 3: Don't rescue! - Rescuing children robs them of the opportunity to learn lessons at emotional times when they will be best remembered. In other words, we don't put them in the car and take them to school and we don't write an excuse to the teacher.

Guideline 4: Replace anger with sadness when children make mistakes - A wise parent, seeing their child is going to be late, says, "Oh, Honey, I'm sorry you're going to have a problem with your teacher. I sure hope you can work it out."

Loving parents have difficulty watching children learn from life's natural consequences. It's far easier to yell, threaten and punish than it is to remain quiet and let children learn from experience. It's a strong parent who  can allow a child to learn from his or her mistakes.

The first hour of the day is the very best time of the day to teach your child to be responsible.

Standards Based Grading Professional Development September 23, 2015

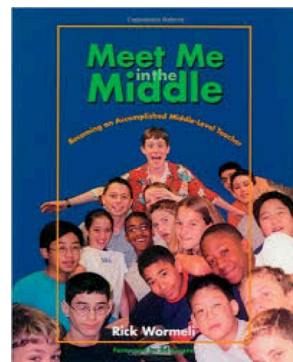
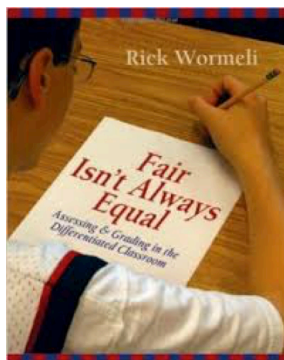
Last week, all Pella teaching staff had the opportunity to listen to Rick Wormeli at Central College. Rick Wormeli is nationally known as a leader in educational reform. He is also the author of best-sellers and award winning books. It was a valued professional development learning opportunity for our team.

Do you need more information about this topic?

Please stop in, call, or email your student's teacher or me if you have questions in regards to standards based/referenced grading. Below is a helpful site and link, as well, if you want to learn more.

<http://aeispeakers.com/speakerbio.php?SpeakerID=1100>

You can also search for Rick Wormeli on YouTube, and there you will find many helpful short clips of his.



Conference time next week is also a great time to come in and ask questions. We welcome your feedback, and we value your input.



Don't Miss The Book Fair!

The Middle School will be hosting a book fair beginning on October 6th. We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a

celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: *encouraging kids to read every day so they can lead better lives.*



Hours for this year's fair:

Tuesday, October 6th - 8:00-3:30

Wednesday October 7th - 8:00-2:00

Thursday October 8th - 8:00-7:00

Conference Night

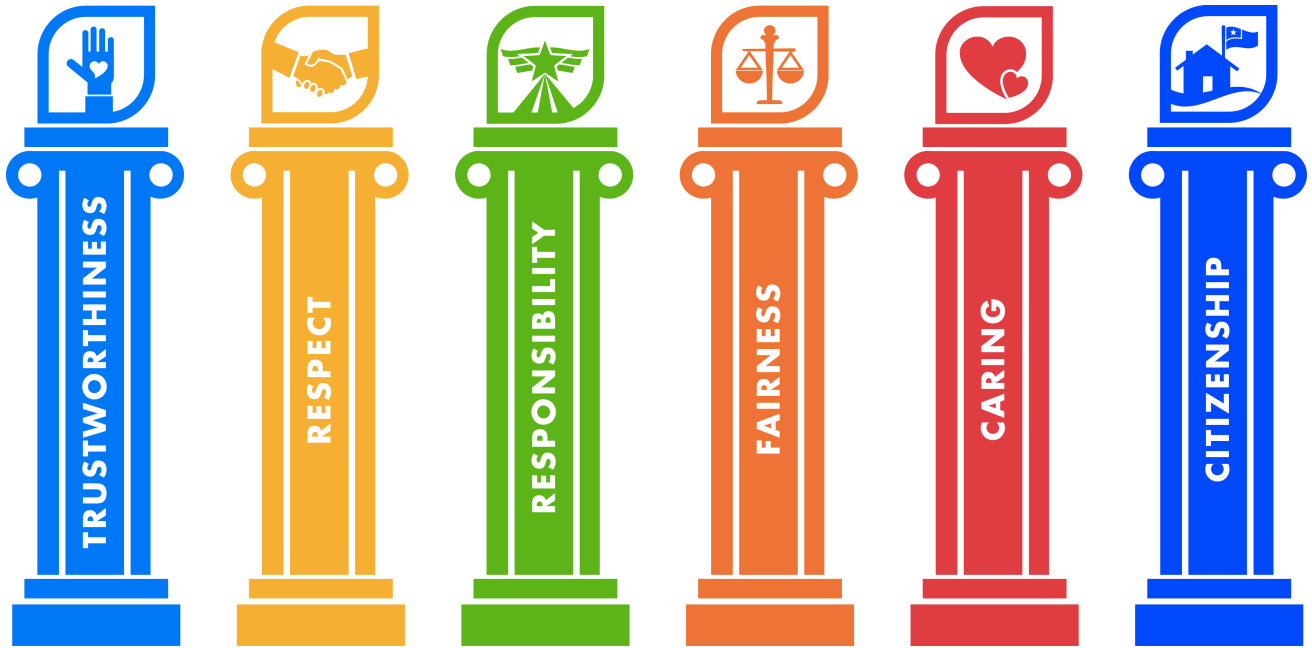
Friday October 9th - 8:00-11:00

Please remember, all purchases benefit our school!

Jill Roberts
Teacher Librarian

Did you know there are 180 7th grade students and 176 8th grade students at Pella Middle School?

Character Counts!



before you speak

think!!

- t + is it true?
- h + is it helpful?
- i + is it inspiring?
- n + is it necessary?
- k + is it kind?

The graphic features a black background with white text and icons. The word 'think!!' is prominently displayed in a large, bold, white font. Below it, a list of five questions is presented, each preceded by a plus sign and a letter (t, h, i, n, k) that corresponds to the first letter of the question. The background is decorated with small white floral icons in the corners.

Counselor's Connection

See Love and Logic article above.

I can be reached by email at anne.pentico@pella.k12.ia.us or by telephone at [641.628.4784](tel:641.628.4784).

Mrs. Anne Pentico

Thank you, Mrs. Pentico

2015 - 2016 Approved District Calendar:

<http://www.pellaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Final-2015-16-Pella-CSD-Calendar.pdf>

Activities/School Calendar - has ALL 2015 - 2016 district activities:

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/document/d/11sbdnoekXycEhaCmud0jfVtG3MQLNqjrFWv29sFkJik/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/middle-school-band/>

Pella Digital Learning Environment (DLE) Link:

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