

Pella Middle School

Teaching middle school is an adventure not a job.
Angela K. Bennett



September - 2017

Dates to Remember:

I hope you and your kids are feeling as good about the start of the school year as we are. Every year I marvel at what great students we have, and I know that comes directly from having such loving, caring, and involved parents. I cannot adequately articulate how seriously we take our role in guiding these great kids into becoming great adults. I truly hope we can partner in this effort; please let us know if there is anything we can do to help with your child's personal/social and academic development.

- | | |
|------|--|
| 9/11 | Student Council Elections |
| 9/11 | School Board Meeting 4:30 |
| 9/12 | School Board Election |
| 9/13 | 90 Minute Early Dismissal (PD) |
| 9/20 | 90 Minute Early Dismissal (PD) |
| 9/22 | Homecoming |
| 9/27 | 90 Minute Early Dismissal (PD) |
| 10/2 | NO SCHOOL (PD) |
| 10/3 | MS Picture Day |
| 10/9 | Parent Teacher Conference
(3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) |

Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child

Respecting and Developing Every Child's Potential

What is Peer PE?

Students apply to be Peer PE helpers in a nontraditional physical education class that serves students needing extra learning supports. Peer helpers make this class a huge success, and they also grow personally in their role as peer helper.



Willing to Help!

"The trees are dying, and I am willing to water the trees that did not die," Whitney Ebeling said to me in early August. We are trying to make and keep our school beautiful; we always appreciate when students like Whitney step up and volunteer to maintain it in this way. Thank you, Whitney!

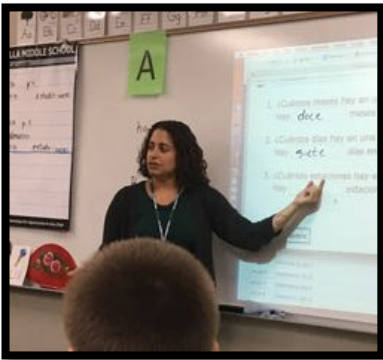


Ability is what you have; skill is what you learn.

Become a Person of Integrity and Personal Balance

New Faces at Pella Middle School

We have once again been fortunate in hiring and sharing outstanding staff. There are some familiar faces, and there are some new faces, but the most important thing is each one of them cares deeply about serving middle school students.



Yara Braulio-Ortiz,
Spanish



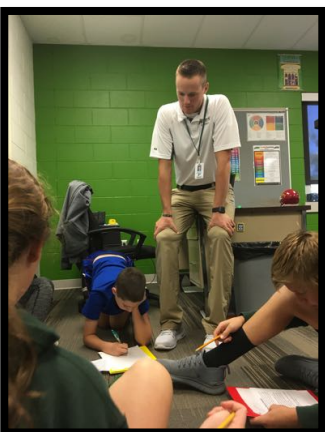
Carrie Birkhofer,
8th Grade French



Hillary Brummel,
Teacher Associate



Emily Craig,
School Nurse



Blaine Forsythe,
7th Grade Math



Andrea Taylor,
5-12 Orchestra



Joni Turner,
Teacher Associate



Stephen VanGorp,
8th Grade Science

A big part of being successful is being prepared.

Exhibiting Global Awareness



Flood Houston with Love

The Pella Middle School is starting a relief fund for the **Dickinson Independent School District in Houston**. We are asking for monetary donations which can be used to help the district rebuild and restock their schools.

Those students who donate will sign their names on a paper heart and include a personal message which will be sent along with donations to the school district.

Donations will be collected through **Friday, September 15**, and can be dropped off or sent to the Middle School Office. Checks should be made payable to **Pella Community Schools**. Thank you!

Thank you for
your
consideration in
helping the
Houston schools
during their time
of need!



The only time success comes before work is in the dictionary.

Building Caring Relationships

P Pella Pride Welcome Back Assembly

[LINK for Assembly](#)

Annually, I lead our welcome back assembly; this year, we went about it a little differently. We asked the students to construct their understanding around what is Pella Pride, and what is and why do we have or need a middle school. The students did an outstanding job brainstorming their answers to these questions, and we will work to enhance the presentation annually in order to maximize the learning opportunity.



Sharing Bucket = Fruit/Food 4 Friends

The “Sharing Bucket”

Anytime a student has an unopened or uneaten fruit, we are placing them in the “sharing bucket”. At the end of the lunch period, our kitchen staff washes the fruit again. The intention was to reduce waste, but we soon realized we are helping others. Many students get hungry in the afternoon, and this is a resource for a healthy snack. At the end of the day, staff bring what is left home to share with their animals.



New Signs in the Gym



Attitude determines preparation, preparation determines outcome.

Pursuing Excellence

Proactive Homework Planner

In an attempt to better communicate with students and parents and be more proactive with homework assignments, we have a homework planner link at the bottom of our building specific website. This will be updated on a daily basis.

[HW Planner Link](#) - bottom right side of our Middle School site.

Pella Middle School Site

The screenshot shows the Pella Middle School website. At the top right, there is a 'CONTACT' box with phone and fax numbers and an email address. Below this is a navigation menu with links like 'Home', 'About Us', 'Academics', etc. The main content area features a 'A Firm Foundation' section with a quote from Benjamin Franklin and a paragraph about the school's mission. To the right is an 'ANNOUNCEMENTS & ALERTS' section with a 'NEW, SEP 4' alert about a regular schedule and lunch menu. Below that is a 'Grade Levels' section with a progress indicator. At the bottom right is a 'Quick Links' section with links to 'Bell Schedule', 'School Library', 'Virtual Tour', 'Accelerated Reader', 'Webelos Plan', '7th Homework Planner', and '8th Homework Planner'. A red arrow points from the '8th Homework Planner' link towards the bottom right corner of the page.

Pella Middle School Apparel

URL: <https://sportspageteam.itemorder.com>

Password: 06751

Due: September 17



Pursuing Excellence

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

[Complete Policy Link](#)

The faculty and administration of Pella Middle School have developed a policy for students who are failing classes. A list with any student failing a class will be compiled by the iStudy Supervisor through Infinite Campus software, and the list will be compiled approximately every four weeks. See complete schedule in the link above. Students failing any class will be placed on the Academic and Ineligibility List. Students not participating in an extracurricular activity will be required to stay after school on Wednesdays from 1:45 to 3:15 for two weeks. Students participating in extracurricular activities will be rendered ineligible under this policy to represent Pella Middle School in any public extracurricular performance, as well as required to stay after school on Wednesdays from 1:45 to 3:15 for two weeks. Once a student is placed on the Academic and Ineligibility List, he/she will not be removed until the end of the second week (i.e. Wednesday morning through Tuesday end of day for two weeks in a row).

Don't wish for anything more than you're willing to work for.

**How many students attend
Pella Middle School?**

Total Class Size

7th Grade = 192

8th Grade = 168

TOTAL STUDENTS = 360

*NEW to the building = 23 (19 enrolled plus 4 dual enrolled for music/athletics)

Fall Participation

Fine Arts

Band = 130

Choir = 175

Orchestra = 52

TOTAL = 357

Sports

Cross Country = 41

Football = 97

Volleyball = 61

TOTAL = 199

What If...?

1. **What if** my student has *an appointment during practice?*

- i. First, contact the office and hi/her coaches via email, or call Mindy or Danielle in the office. Then the office will inform coaches.
- ii. If he/she is not waiting for you, and he/she is inside practicing in the gym, knock on the East gym door at the Middle School or the Southeast gym door at Jefferson. Students or coaches will hear you when you knock.



2. **What if** I need to *get a hold of my student* during the school day?

- i. Contact the office, and we will get a hold of your student for you as quickly as possible depending on the urgency of the situation.

3. **What if** my *child is sick during the school day*, and he/she contacts me via email, text, or phone?

- i. First, remind him/her to go to the nurse or office, so we can determine if his/her symptoms warrant needing to go home.
- ii. Second, wait to come to pick him/her up until the office contacts you of their symptoms.



Stay tuned for next month's What ifs!

Pursuing Excellence



Home Football Game Expectations



1. Students are to remain in the assigned areas during football games. Students using the concession stand or restrooms should return to the assigned area as soon as possible. The concessions area is not an area for socializing. Be courteous of those wanting/needing to access concessions.

Assigned Areas: K-6: With parents or south end of stadium

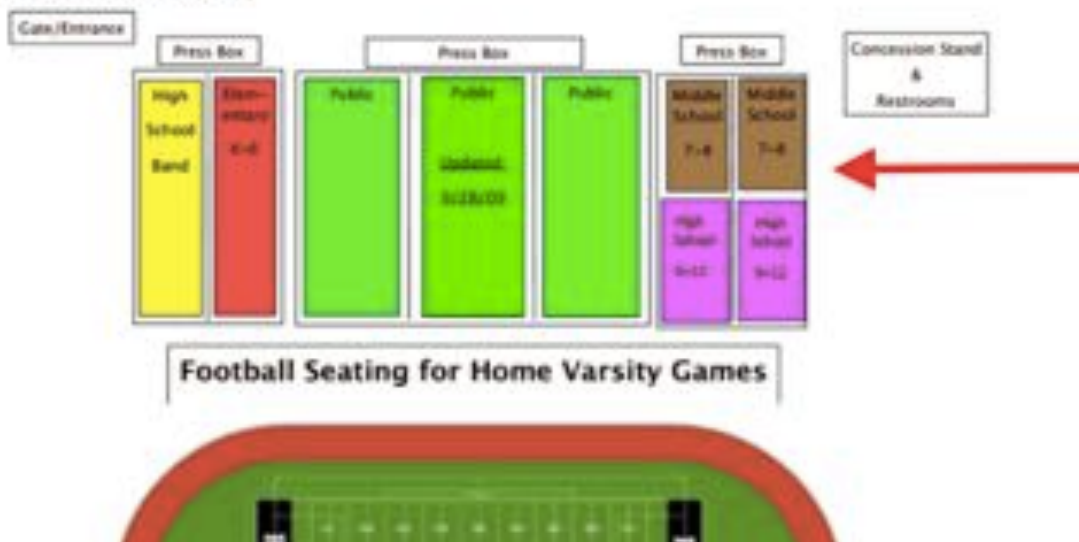
MS-HS: North bleachers or north end of stadium

2. For safety reasons—no items are to be thrown while in the stadium. Footballs, frisbees, etc. are not to be brought to football games.

3. Students are to be courteous at all times, so all spectators can watch the game without being distracted.

4. Students are to stay on the Pella side of the field at both home and away games.

SEATING CHART:



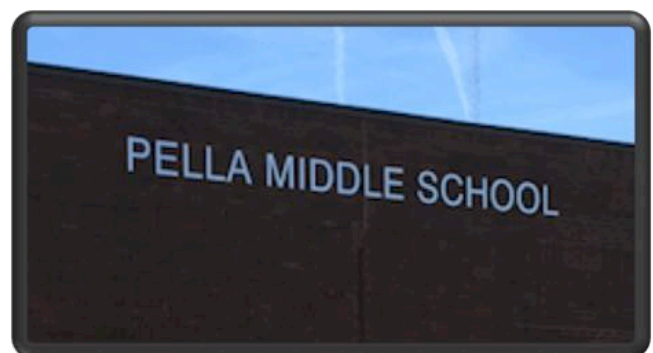
Respecting and Developing Every Child's Potential

CLUB TENNIS OPPORTUNITY

Club tennis has started up again this fall. No previous tennis experience is needed! It is open to any student 5th-8th grade and takes place on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 at Caldwell courts. Email Lindsay Brandt at lindsay.brandt@pella.k12.ia.us if your student is signed up yet but would like to participate.

Conference banners hung in the gym.

Pella Middle School on the east side.



Character Counts



Character is what you show when no one is watching.

Calendars and Helpful Links

2017-2018 Approved District Calendar:

<http://www.pellaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FINAL-of-2017-18-approved-2-13-17.pdf>

Middle School Specific Site:

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

Middle School Handbook:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rUWomkYWFolz2wtEzKRP25fo86sENvXtpd-mDCAIU-4/edit>

Middle School Band:

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

Pella 1:1 Handbook:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lwkAUBESJbVmRgTpaU2ijBq4tpCo-Z_VFNmf-gfe6Ag/edit

Activities/School Calendar - has ALL 2016 - 2017 district activities:

<http://www.pellaschools.org/calendar/>