

# Pella Middle School

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



## October - 2017

Typically this time of year, we have to remind ourselves that more development takes place during early adolescence than at any other time outside of the first year of life. Middle school kids are growing and changing in a multitude of ways, all at the same time: physically, cognitively, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. However, this development occurs unevenly amongst students, and this is what makes parenting (and teaching) middle school students such an interesting adventure. Find out from the link below what you can do to help and partner with school in supporting your students during this “quirky” time of life. Continue to remind yourself, this is normal.

<https://inallthings.org/how-to-help-your-kid-survive-middle-school/>

## Dates to Remember:

**10/11 90 Minute Early Dismissal**

**10/17 2 Hour Early Dismissal**

**10/19 2 Hour Early Dismissal**

**10/20 No Classes**

**10/25 90 Minute Early Dismissal**

**10/27 End 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

**10/30 Begin 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

**11/1 90 Minute Early Dismissal**

**11/6 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

7<sup>th</sup> grade PE students enjoy the warm, sunny weather with a round of Frisbee golf.



**P**

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

# Become a Person of Integrity and Personal Balance

## Healthiest State Walk

Wednesday, October 4th

"Get Your Walk On" was part of the 2017 Annual Walk supporting Iowa's efforts of having at least one public walk in all 99 counties! Our students and staff participated once again this year during their lunch recess.



## Coffee Cart



A special thanks to our caring middle school staff for all of their **coffee cart** support! Because of their need for morning caffeine, the students were able to purchase 39 boxes of macaroni and cheese and 37 cans of soup and Spaghettios to donate to Pella's Food Pantry!

A big part of being successful is being prepared.

# Exhibiting Global Awareness

## Go Make a Difference

Annually our seventh grade students work on a project where they “go make a difference” in the world beyond the school walls. The project is open-ended, so students are able to determine what and where they want to make an impact. This allows our students the opportunity to better understand how powerful they are even though they are 12 and 13 year olds, and they are able to see what a vision and a plan can fulfill when they put their minds behind the task. As the year progresses, ask your student what he/she plans on doing to “go make a difference”.



Maggie Leach, above, a new 8<sup>th</sup> grade student this year from Minnesota, has been making a difference for several years. She was a [Daily Point of Light Award](#) honoree, and one of the winners of the 2016 [Make A Difference Day Awards](#). Each year, [TEGNA](#) recognizes 14 outstanding leaders of Make A Difference Day projects, awarding \$140,000 in grants that are donated to the charities related to the winning projects. Learn more about Make A Difference Day and register a 2017 project at [www.makeadifferenceday.com](http://www.makeadifferenceday.com). If you would like to read her full story, please click the link below.

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/recognition/dpol/awards/6093>

If you are interested in supporting her efforts, your son/daughter may bring in supplies this week or next, or click on the link: <https://dm2.gofund.me/operation-share-the-load-2017>

# Exhibiting Global Awareness

## Go Make a Difference

7th grade students collected items for the Pella Food Shelf in September as part of the Go Make a Difference Project.

## PJammin' Day

September was National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies classes collected DVD's to be sent to hospitals for families to use during their stay. Students and staff also donated \$1 or more to wear pajamas on Friday, September 29. Over \$500 was collected and will go to the American Childhood Cancer Association.



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

# Exhibiting Global Awareness

## Go Make a Difference Continued



Student Council also helped out with service projects on Friday, October 6, by delivering another box of food to the Pella Food Shelf and DVD's to Pella Hospital. The hospital photo includes Chief Nursing Officer, Yvonne O'Brien-Evans accepting the DVD's.



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

# Building Caring Relationships

## First Aid Training

On September 28th, Emily Craig, our school nurse, supported the 8th grade health classes with first aid training. Students learned what to do in emergency situations around the school and how to treat injuries. Students practiced bandaging each other up. What a fun group!



*Attitude determines preparation; preparation determines outcome.*

# Building Caring Relationships

## First Aid Training Continued



*Attitude determines preparation; preparation determines outcome.*



# Pursuing Excellence

## And the Award goes to...

Mr. Scott Tjeerdsma has been named **Middle School Athletic Director of the Year** for the Southeast Iowa District by the Iowa High School Athletic Directors' Association. Scott does a tremendous job working in multiple roles as the middle school math teacher, dean of students, and middle school athletic director. We are grateful for his time and talents here at the Pella



**Scott Tjeerdsma**  
Middle School Math Teacher,  
Middle School Dean, and  
Middle School Athletic Director

## Ecobottles

Seventh grade students are studying the interactions between living and nonliving things as well as the interdependence between organisms in their ecosystems unit. They are also trying to create a sustainable system of survival with hopes of the living organisms surviving for at least 30 days. Wow! What a great project!



# Pursuing Excellence

## Ecobottles Continued



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



### Wild Animals at Pella MS!

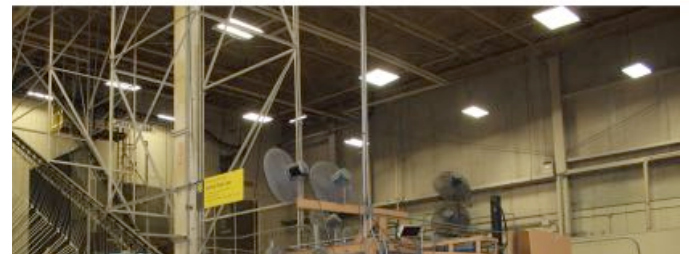
Have you ever seen a unicorn doing a backflip or a teacher with antlers? These are just a couple of the surprises you may observe if you visit our school.



# Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child

## MANUFACTURING DAY

8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in an interactive manufacturing experience at Pella Corporation on Thursday, October 5. Students had an opportunity to tour the Manufacturing and Engineering Services plants, showcasing the highly skilled jobs available in manufacturing. It was a tremendous experience for our students. Pella Corporation showed us advanced manufacturing at it's finest. We also learned there are layers of employment opportunities with an education or training requirement spanning from a one-year to four-year degree. We witnessed two of our very own Pella High graduates programming robots preparing for an engineering career. We appreciate the time and courtesy shown to us by Pella Corporation, and we thank them for inviting us to tour their facilities!



# Pursuing Excellence

## Homecoming Pep Assembly



Senior king, Adam Davis, and senior queen, Kara Wichhart, spoke to approximately 1,000 students and staff about school pride and representing Pella with good sportsmanship at the home football game during homecoming week. What great leaders for our students to look up to and learn from!



# Respecting and Developing Every Child's Potential



## Family and Consumer Science

Ashley & Peg from Pella Hy-Vee's Bakery Department (pictured left) and Sharesa of Cranberry Stone Bakery (pictured right) recently spoke to the Consumer FCS classes about their careers in the baking industry. Prior to their visits, students gathered information on being a baker and created a budget using a baker's net monthly income.

# What If...?

- **What if you forget something at school after hours?**
  - Determine whether or not the item is necessary.
  - If it is necessary, there are janitors in the building until 10:00 PM, and they may notice you at the front doors. Please try not to scare them!
  - You may be able to get ahold of Mr. Manning, and he can call the janitors to see about letting them know you are there. Mr. Manning may or may not be available, depending on his evening schedule.
- **What if you have a negative balance in your lunch account?**
  - Parents/Guardians can add money to a lunch account through the parent portal on Infinite Campus. Students may bring cash or check, or students may bring a lunch.
- **What if my child has a headache at school and needs pain relief medication?**
  - Medication can be administered to students if it is in the original bottle and parents/guardians have signed a medication form from the school. Forms are available in the office.

If you have any “what if?” questions, please email us at [msoffice@pella.k12.ia.us](mailto:msoffice@pella.k12.ia.us) . Thanks!

Pictured are 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in Manufacturing Day at Pella Corporation



# 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](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/>