

Pella High School

Principal Newsletter

The mission of the Pella Community Schools is to maximize life's opportunities for every child.



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The first semester was successful in many regards. The students of Pella Community High achieved in the classroom and extracurricular activities. We are proud of all the outstanding efforts students have made during the first semester. Pella Community High will continue to offer quality programs for all students, now and in the future.

Course registration for the 2014-15 school year will be on February 12. Accurate course registration is very important, as it impacts course offerings and staffing for the next school year. Class schedules will be changed only by adding and dropping a course. It is important to note we will be starting our own **DMACC Career Academy at Pella** (Pella Career Academy through DMACC) next year. We are extremely excited about this opportunity for our students next year and in the future.

Thank you,
Eric Nelson
Principal

Jon Muller
Assistant Principal

Calendar

- January 15:** 90 minute Early Dismissal – Professional Development
- January 22:** OECD Testing
90 minute Early Dismissal – Professional Development
- January 27:** In Progress Grade Posting
(3 Week 3rd Quarter Progress Check)
- January 29:** 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development
- February 5:** 90 minute Early Dismissal – Professional Development
- February 6:** Senior Ski Trip & 8th Grade Orientation
- February 10:** In Progress Grade Posting
(5 Week 3rd Quarter Progress Check)
- February 10 - 14:** Iowa Assessments – Sophomores & Juniors
- February 12:** EXPLORE Test - Freshmen
Course Registration for the 2014-15 School Year



New Pella Community School District Website

Our new website design is officially launched. You can get to the site using either of the names we now have: www.pellaschools.org or www.pella.k12.ia.us. It provides a new look to our website while providing school information to parents, students, and the community.

Report Cards

First semester report cards are available on the Infinite Campus parent portal. All parents have a personal password to access their child's grades and report cards. Report cards will not be mailed out unless requested from the parent/guardian. If you need assistance to access your child's information or need to update your personal information, please contact Allissa Grandia at: allissa.grandia@pella.k12.ia.us.

- Report cards can be printed off under the "Reports" tab on Infinite Campus. Print the report card for your insurance company and the good driver discount.

Parent Teacher Conferences

(February 17 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

If you want to schedule a conference with a particular teacher, please email him/her to schedule a conference meeting time. The conferences will be in teachers rooms. All winter coaches will be available by 5:30 p.m. An 8th grade parent meeting will be in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m. to cover PHS registration and course selection.

Course Registration

Course registration for the 2014-15 school year will be on February 12 through the Infinite Campus portal. Accurate course registration is very important, as it impacts course offerings and staffing for the next school year. Class schedules will be changed only by adding and dropping a course.

Pella Career Academy through DMACC

These classes provide our high school students with excellent education opportunities. The students will be able to get a head start on their college and career, explore various career options of interest, develop valuable career and workplace skills, and earn college credit. We will be offering courses in Ag Business, Health Occupations, Building Trades/Finish Carpentry, Teacher Academy, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Introduction to Computers, Beginning Chinese, Beginning German, Fashion and Design, Project Lead The Way, and Welding.

State and National Testing

It would be greatly appreciated, if possible, not to schedule appointments during testing times. We have set aside these dates and times specifically for State and National Testing. Teachers have adjusted their planning for these assessments and it is required for students to complete these test.

- February 10 - 14 - Iowa Assessments (ITED) for sophomores & juniors
- February 12 is the EXPLORE Test for all freshmen.



Junior Attendance & Decorum

Junior attendance and discipline will be reviewed this spring to determine if open campus privileges will be granted to students when they become seniors. A student must have established positive track records before the school will grant senior release next fall. Parent/Guardian permission must also be given before a student will receive senior release. This release will be available during summer registration.

Pella Digital Learning Environment Link

Jay Murphy, our grades 7-12 technology integrationist, and Ben Bollard, our IT director have created this site/blog that will be updated with 1:1 initiative concepts and methods of current integration and usage. Below the link are some other helpful tips you may continue to use and remind your student of:

- <http://pcsd-dle.blogspot.com/>
- shut off your laptop when it is in your locker
- make certain there are no items on your keyboard when you close the lid
- avoid storing/leaving in the car or garage during cold or hot weather
- set family parameters on when and where your student uses their device
- if ever concerned of your student's usage, have your student's screen facing you when they are using the device
- always sit with your child if they are setting up new social media bios, so you know their passwords
- encourage your student to avoid having multiple items on the desk when they are using the device

Pella Community High - Breakfast

The Department of Ed requires us to publish the fact that breakfast is served at the high school from 7:40 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

Calendar Items

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|-----------------|---------|--|
| January | 15 | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| | 22 | OECD Testing |
| | | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| | 27 | In Progress Grade Posting (3 Week 3rd Quarter Progress Check) |
| | 29 | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| February | 5 | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| | 6 | Senior Ski Trip & 8th Grade Orientation |
| | 10 | In Progress Grade Posting (5 Week 3rd Quarter Progress Check) |
| | 10 – 14 | Iowa Assessments - Sophomores & Juniors |
| | 12 | EXPLORE Test - Freshmen |
| | | Course Registration for the 2014-15 School Year |
| | 17 | HS Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.) (6:30pm 8th grade parent meeting - auditorium) |
| | 18 | 2 Hour Early Dismissal - K-8 Parent Teacher Conferences |
| | 20 | 2 Hour Early Dismissal - K-8 Parent Teacher Conferences |
| | 21 | No School |
| | 21 & 22 | Show Choir - Dutch Masters |
| | 24 | In Progress Grade Posting (7 Week 3rd Quarter Progress Check) |
| | 26 | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| March | 5 | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| | 12 | 90 Minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| | 14 | End of 3rd Quarter |
| | 17-21 | No School –Spring Break |
| | 24 | Start of 4th Quarter |
| | 26 | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| April | 2 | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| | 5 | Junior/Senior Prom (9:00 p.m. to Midnight) |
| | 9 | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| | 14 | In Progress Grade Posting (3 Week 4th Quarter Progress Check) |
| | 18 | No School - Good Friday |
| | 23 | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| | 28 | In Progress Grade Posting (5 Week 4th Quarter Progress Check) |
| May | 1 & 2 | Tulip Time - 11:15 a.m. Dismissal each day |
| | 7 | 90 minute Early Dismissal - Professional Development |
| | | Senior Awards Night |
| | 12 | In Progress Grade Posting (7 Week 4th Quarter Progress Check) |
| | 14 | 90 minute Early Dismissal- Professional Development |
| | 16 | Seniors Last Day |
| | 23 | Graduation |
| | 26 | No School- Memorial Day |
| | 23 & 27 | 2nd Semester Assessments |
| | 27 | 1 Hour Early Dismissal - End of 2nd Semester |

* Go to www.pellaschools.org and click on the calendar tab to see all events/activities per building and the district.