

# Pella High School

## Principal Newsletter

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



### *Calendar*

- Dec. 16: 90 Minute Early Dismissal for Professional Development
- Dec. 23 – Jan. 3: NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
- Jan. 6: 90 Minute Early Dismissal for Professional Development
- Jan. 13: 1st Semester Assessments Periods 1 - 4
- Jan. 14: 1st Semester Assessments Periods 5 - 8
- Jan. 15: No School - Teacher Work Day
- Jan. 18: Classes begin Second Semester

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The first semester is winding down. We have five days left until Winter Break. When we return we will have seven regular school days followed by two days of semester assessments. The semester assessment schedule is listed in the newsletter on page three. It has been an outstanding first semester. We are proud of all the outstanding efforts students have made during the first semester.

Thank you,

Eric Nelson

Principal

Jon Muller

Assistant Principal

## *Bus Loop*

The newly constructed bus loop will soon be open for use. Here are guidelines for use:

- Before/after school: It is preferred parents drop-off/pick-up students before and after school in the back of the school through the Career Academy parking lot.
- Parents are not allowed to drop-off or pick-up when buses are accessing the bus loop.
  - 7:40 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
  - 3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- During the school day, you may use the bus loop to pick up/drop off your son/daughter.
- 10 parking spaces in the bus loop are reserved for visitor parking.

## *2nd Semester Class Schedules, Course Drops or Adds*

Through the Infinite Campus portal, students and parents are able to view and print class schedules from the **Reports tab**. Second semester schedules may have changed since first semester, so please review student schedules on the campus portal.

At the beginning of each semester, students will be allowed five (5) school days in which to add or drop a course. After the tenth (10) school day, dropping a course will result in an “F” for the class, unless an extreme emergency exists.

## *1st Semester Report Cards and Transcripts*

Grades for Semester 1 are due January 19, 2015 by 9:00am.

## *Update Demographic Information*

Winter Break is a great time to update your phone number, mailing address, and email address. This can be done through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal under Household Information and Family Members.

## *Semester Assessment Schedule: January 13 & 14*

Semester assessments will be given in all classes. The students will be assessed in multiple ways by the high school teachers. A student may be evaluated with a standard semester test, a project, a portfolio, a presentation, or essay, etc.

1. There will be 80 minute assessment sessions on January 13 & 14.
2. Students are only required to be in school if they have a test. Students should be in the cafeteria, the library, or leave campus if they do not have an assessment. Students are not to be in the academic areas of the building during semester assessments.
3. All students will eat during the same single lunch period.
4. Students who cannot take their assessments during the scheduled semester test days will be expected to make-up assessments on or after January 15. All make-up assessments must be coordinated with teachers. Students are not allowed to move any semester assessments.
5. Students are not to be dismissed early from assessment sessions.

### **January 13 & 14 Assessment Schedule (80 Minutes per Assessment)**

| <b>Wednesday, January 13 (p1-4)</b> | <b>Thursday, January 14 (p5-8)</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1st - 8:15 - 9:35                   | 5th - 8:15 - 9:35                  |
| 2nd - 9:45 - 11:05                  | 6th - 9:45 - 11:05                 |
| Lunch - 11:05 - 12:25               | Lunch - 11:05 - 12:25              |
| 3rd - 12:25 - 1:45                  | 7th - 12:25 - 1:45                 |
| 4th - 1:55 - 3:15                   | 8th - 1:55 - 3:15                  |

**GO DUTCH!**

## *School Closing or Dismissals Due to Weather*

It is that time of year again where we have the possibility of closing school, starting late, or dismissing early due to weather issues. Our district will now have a text alert option for weather-related delays, dismissals, and cancellations. The district will be sending out the initial text (it will display as 68453); if you would like to receive the actual text alerts, you will need to opt-in by responding "yes" to the text. If you do not respond, you will not receive the text alerts. Parents who do opt-in, can opt-out at any time by responding "stop" to the text alert.

The following sources will also have announcements:

- Pella Community School District Website
- KNIA/KRLS
- WHO TV: Channel 13
- WHO Radio
- KCCI TV: Channel
- WOI TV : Channel 5
- KCOB/KRTI
- KBOE

## *Seniors and Parents:*

The Pella Dollars for Scholars program will again be offering many scholarships to senior graduates this spring. The Dollars for Scholars board will be hosting a couple events in preparation for the senior scholarship applications. Remember, if your student is planning to attend any post-secondary schooling, and they complete this scholarship process, they WILL get some scholarship dollars in their name. On January 26th, the seniors will be invited to attend an informational session about the scholarship application requirements and process. On February 16th, a work session will be held with Dollars for Scholars' members available to assist with the application process. Students, bring your computers! This will be a great way to understand the process and get a head start on the application.