

# 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 in extra-curricular activities. We are proud of all of 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 2016-17 school year will be on February 10. Accurate course registration is very important, as it impacts course offerings and staffing for the next school year. The Pella Community High course handbook for 2016 - 2017 is currently being updated and will be available at the following link after February 1: [Pella Community High Course Guide](#). It would be our goal to have class schedules for 2016-17 to students in May before summer break. Changes to schedules may be made at this time if a student needs to add and drop a course. If you have any questions about courses for the 2016-17 school year you can contact the High School guidance office.

Thank you,  
Eric Nelson  
Principal

Jon Muller  
Assistant Principal

### Calendar

**February 5**

Post 3-Week Grades

**February 11**

8th Grade Orientation - HS

**February 1-5**

Discuss assessments w/ students

**February 8-12**

Iowa Assessments

**February 10**

Student Assessment - a.m. &  
Career Planning & Registration -  
pm

**February 10**

Senior Ski Trip (Make-up Date:  
February 17)

**February 13**

Post 6-Week Grades

**February 15**

Parent-Teacher Conferences /  
Excellence in Electives

## *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.ja.us](mailto:allissa.grandia@pella.k12.ja.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, 8th grade parent meeting & Excellence in Electives*

Several events will be taking place on Monday, February 15 from 5:30-8:30pm at the High School. Teachers of core area classes will be available in their classrooms throughout the evening for parent teacher conferences. If you want to schedule a conference with a particular teacher, please email him/her to schedule a conference meeting time. Teachers of elective courses that are involved in Excellence in Electives will be available from 7:30 to 8:30 to schedule a conference. This will be the only parent-teacher conference of the second semester. You can find a teacher's work email on the Pella High School Website.

### *8th Grade Parent Meeting - February 15 at 7:00pm*

An 8th grade parent meeting will be in the HS auditorium at 7:00pm. The HS guidance department will cover PHS registration and course selection. Parents of 8th graders are encouraged to attend this meeting and get questions answered about courses and registration.

### *Excellence in Electives - February 15 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm*

Excellence in Electives is a way for students to highlight the various experiences they gain by taking elective courses here at Pella High. Teachers offering elective courses will highlight their programs and provide students/parents a chance to see what some of these courses have to offer.

We look forward to seeing you on February 15 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm.

## *Dollars for Scholars*

Each year generous donors contribute money for scholarships for graduating Pella High School students, and these are given out through Pella Dollars for Scholars. To apply for these scholarships, students need to create an account on our site. To start with go to: [pella.dollarsforscholars.org](http://pella.dollarsforscholars.org), then click on the tab that says "Students and Parents" and click the red button to go to login site. Then click above the log in where it says "Don't have an account yet? [Create one here.](#)"

Orientation meetings will be held at Pella High School for seniors, it will be on January 26 at 11:30 a.m. in the HS Auditorium. In order to make the best use of your time, please create your account BEFORE our meeting, so you can simply log on and get started during our presentation. Use a permanent email address (not your school email address), and write down the email address and password so you don't forget. You will want these for the meeting. A Parent & Student Orientation will also be held on Tuesday, February 16th at 7p.m. in the PHS Media Center. Dollars for Scholars board members will be available to help answer any application questions. The application deadline for the scholarships will be Sunday, February 28th. But, please make sure any details required for your application from a teacher or counselor is requested in a timely manner for them to complete the requirement before Friday, February 26th.

## *New Pella Schools iOS App Released!*

Pella Community School District continually strives to explore and excel in all that we do. In that spirit, we have released the official [Pella Schools iOS app](#)! We wanted to enable parents, staff, students, and community members to have the most up-to-date information within arm's reach about Pella Schools events and food menu.

This iOS app provides granular functionality in your calendar and menu viewing experience:

Event Calendar:

Filtering calendar events by school building

Custom time span of calendar events

Adding individual events to your personal calendar

Menu Calendar:

Listing either lunch or breakfast menus for any school building in the district

We hope that you enjoy your experience with our new product!

## *State and National Testing*

Students in grades 9-11 will be taking Iowa Assessments and the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) assessments the week of February 8-12. These assessments are very important for your child as they provide valuable information regarding their progress and will be of benefit to them when planning for their futures after high school. To assist with the assessment process, we are encouraging families to avoid, if possible, scheduling appointments during assessment times. Teachers have adjusted their planning for these assessments and it is required for students to complete these test.

*Iowa Assessments - Sophomores & Juniors*

Monday-Wednesday - TESTING

Thursday - MAKE UP DAY

\*For more information on the Iowa Assessments [click here](#)

*NCRC - Freshmen*

Wednesday - TESTING

Thursday - MAKE UP DAY

\*For more information on the NCRC assessment [click here](#)

## *Career Academy of Pella (CAP)*

Our first year of the Career Academy has been a tremendous success! We will continue to refine and look for opportunities to expand offerings in this facility. These classes provide our high school students with excellent education opportunities. Students are able to get a head start on college and career aspirations or simply explore various career options of interest. They also develop valuable career and workplace skills while earning college credit. We currently offer 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. More information will be available as we expand offerings through this facility.

## *HS Renovation/Construction*

The beginning of our renovation process will be as early as February at the High School. The first phase of the project will be demolition of the Ag/Industrial Tech/Art wing on the NE corner of the building. The renovation/construction of the new student commons, wrestling room, and fitness facility will also begin this spring in the east wing (north of gymnasiums) along with installation of new HVAC systems on the 1st and 2nd floor hallways. This is an exciting time for our building that comes with a few challenges of completing renovations while school is in session. We are committed to keeping our primary goal of educating our students the top priority throughout this process. For more information about HS Renovation [click here](#)

## *Junior Attendance & Decorum*

Junior attendance and discipline will be reviewed at the end of their 2nd semester 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 Community High - Breakfast*

The Department of Ed requires us to publish the fact that breakfast is served at the High school from 7:40 - 8:15. Breakfast is also served between periods one and two.

## *Calendar Items*

February 5:	Post 3-Week Grades
February 11:	8th Grade Orientation - High School
February 1-5:	Discuss assessments w/ students
February 8-12:	Iowa Assessments
February 10:	Student Assessment - am & Career Planning and Registration - pm
February 10:	Senior Ski Trip (Make-up Date: February 17)
February 13:	Post 6-Week Grades
February 15:	Parent-Teacher Conferences / Excellence in Electives
February 16:	90 Minute Early Dismissal - K-6 PTC
February 26:	Post 6-Week Grades
February 18:	90 Minute Early Dismissal - K-6 PTC
February 19:	No School
March 18:	End of the third Quarter
March 19-26:	Spring Break-No School
March 23:	Start of 4th Quarter
April 9:	Prom @ Central College-Graham Hall
April 15:	Post 3 Week Grades
May 6:	Post 6-Week Grades
May 5:	Tulip Time - 11:15 Dismissal
May 6:	Tulip Time - 11:15 dismissal
May 11:	Senior Awards Night
May 18:	Seniors Last Day 11:30 dismissal (seniors only)
May 18:	Senior Picnic - Caldwell Park
May 23-25:	Semester Assessment, Laptop Return, & Student Check-Out
May 25:	Last Day of School/2nd semester - 12:30 Dismissal
May 27:	Graduation - Central College-Kuyper Fieldhouse

\* Go to [www.pellaschools.org](http://www.pellaschools.org) and click on the calendar tab to see all events/activities. You may also access the calendar by going to [www.littlehawkeyeconference.com](http://www.littlehawkeyeconference.com). Or get the new [Pella Schools iOS App](#)