

# 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 school year is flying by having reached the 12-week, one-third mark in the school year. The students have had an outstanding attitude towards school. Their focus has been stellar along with their attendance. Our attendance has been above 96% for the year thus far. Thank you for your support in encouraging your son/daughter to be at school and do their best.

It has been an amazing fall with the athletic accomplishments of our student athletes. We would like to recognize their accomplishments:

Congratulations to swimmer, Samantha Hedrick, for being a state champion in the 100 M Butterfly, runner up in the 200 Freestyle, and also placing 12th in the 200 Freestyle relay. Samantha and Madeline Webb placed 12th in the 400 free relay and the team overall placed 12th at state. Great season for the Pella girls swimmers and thanks for all your hard work.

*(- continued on page 2 -)*

### *Calendar*

**Nov. 17:** Post Progress Grades  
Due: 3-Week

**Nov. 18:** 90 Minute Early Dismissal  
- Professional Development

**Nov. 25:** 90 Minute Early Dismissal for  
Thanksgiving Break

**Nov. 26 & 27:** NO SCHOOL -  
Thanksgiving break

**Dec. 2:** 90 Minute Early Dismissal for  
- Professional Development

Financial Aid Night for Seniors  
- 7:00 pm in Auditorium

**Dec. 4:** Post Progress Grades: 6-Week

**Dec. 9:** 90 Minute Early Dismissal for  
- Professional Development

(- continued from page 1 -)

Our cross country teams also had another fantastic season. Both teams advanced to the state meet; the girls team finished 2nd overall, and the boys finished 3rd. We are thankful for their supporters and proud of the dedication the athletes and coaches show. Congratulations.

Congratulations to our varsity volleyball team for an outstanding season, advancing to the state tournament and finishing among the top 8 teams in the state in class 4A. Thanks to the coaches, players, parents, and fans for the support of the program.

Congratulations on the varsity football team, making it to the championship game as they defeated West Delaware-Manchester 45-26 in the semi-final round this past Thursday at the UNI Dome. The Dutch will head back to the Dome to play district rival, Norwalk on Thursday, November 19 at 7:06 p.m., as they look to defend their state title and repeat as 3A State Champions. Go Dutch!

Thank you,

Eric Nelson

Principal

Jon Muller

Assistant Principal

## *College/Career Readiness*

Thanks to those who attended the parent meetings on November 9. The primary discussion was based around college and career readiness. If you were unable to attend, here is the [link](#) to the presentation that was shared with parents. Be in discussion with your students about their plans for next year and courses they wish to take in order to best prepare them for their post-secondary plan. Scheduling for next year will happen in February; we encourage you to look at our [online course guide](#) and to contact our counselors if you have questions about classes.



## *Senior Parents*

Financial aid night is on Wednesday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. The meeting will be sponsored by ICAN (Iowa College Access Network). If your son/daughter will be attending a post-secondary school next year (four-year college, two-year community college or vocational technical program) you should consider attending this meeting at Pella High. Parents will learn about: FAFSA (financial aid form), grants, loans and scholarships. Please call the Pella High Guidance Department if you have additional questions, 641-628-9539.

## *Construction Update*

The bus loop is slated to be completed by early December. This will provide a specific location for buses to drop off and pick up students at the high school. It also provides a secondary location for parents to pick up and drop off students during the day. We have three specific areas for traffic flow:

1. Student parking in the east lot
2. Bus and parent flow in the new bus lane
3. Faculty parking in the career academy parking

The bids for the high school renovation was accepted by the school board on November 9. The renovation for the school will begin as early as January with HVAC systems on the second floor of the school. The second phase will be the demolition of the ag/art/industrial technology area along with the weight room/fitness room on the east end of the school. The east entrance of the school will be closed starting in late February and early March. The weight room and fitness room will be relocated to the back half of the West Gym. Other teachers will be relocated through the renovation. I will continue to provide you updates throughout the process. It will cause disruption and adaptation throughout the project, but the final project will be outstanding.

## *Calendar Items*

### *First Semester:*

November 17:	Post Progress Grades Due: 3-Week
November 18:	90 Minute Early Dismissal for Professional Development
November 25:	90 Minute Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 26 & 27:	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break
December 2:	90 Minute Early Dismissal for Professional Development
December 2:	Financial Aid Night for Seniors 7:00 pm in Auditorium
December 4:	Post Progress Grades: 6-Week
December 9:	90 Minute Early Dismissal for Professional Development
December 16:	90 Minute Early Dismissal for Professional Development
Dec. 23 – Jan. 3:	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
January 6:	90 Minute Early Dismissal for Professional Development
January 13:	First Semester Assessments -- Periods 1 - 4
January 14:	First Semester Assessments -- Periods 5 - 8
January 15:	No School Teacher Work Day
January 18:	Classes begin Second Semester