

Pella Middle School

*Maximizing Life's
Opportunities for
Every Child*



June 2016

Dates to Remember:

June: Enjoy Summer!

July: Enjoy Summer!

August 18: Teacher Work Day

August 19: Teacher Work Day

August 22: Teacher Work Day

August 22 from 2:00-3:30:

- Meet the Teacher
- Bring Locker Supplies
- Walk your Schedule

August 23: Day 1 of Classes

August 25 5:30 – 8:30:

- Laptop Rollout –
Mandatory for all 7th grade
and New Students
- All Sports Meeting – Mr.
Tjeerdsma

August 31: 90 min early dismissal

September 5: No Classes - Labor Day

September 14, 21, & 28: 90 min early dismissal

2016 End of Year Newsletter

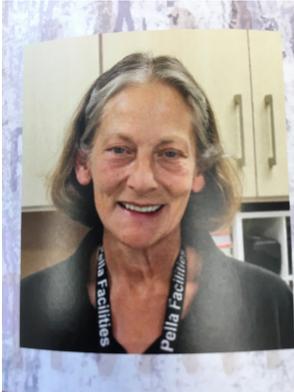
Although we have so much to celebrate as we conclude this school year, I always find myself a bit sappy at the end of each year. The class of 2020 is a special class with great character and potential for success. We will miss their leadership next year, and I am sad to say goodbye to them. However, we know that our goal is to prepare the students for what is next in their journey. The middle school staff and I will look forward to watching them excel throughout their high school careers.

We believe the class of 2021 will naturally slide into the void the class of 2020 has left, and we are confident in their abilities to do so successfully. It has been so fun to watch them grow and shine this school year! Each class brings a unique dynamic to the middle school, and we are excited to meet our incoming 7th graders and have them join our team.

I hope you have a blessed, fun, and safe summer, and do not hesitate to contact me if an issue or question arises!

Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child

Thank You For Everything!



Mrs. Debra Burney



Ms. Donna Hasso



Mr. Karl Korver

Burney 24, Hasso 14, and Korver 33 years of service

Between Mrs. Burney, Ms. Hasso, and Mr. Korver, 71 years of service, leadership, and expertise were shared with Pella Middle School students and staff. As a middle school team, our hope is to work better together in order to try and fill a portion of the voids these great educators have left. It is so difficult to say ‘goodbye’ to each of them! Mrs. Burney had an unmatched drive to ensure our building was in tiptop shape and secure at all times; Mrs. Hasso had a relentless drive to ensure every student was meeting and exceeding his/her Spanish goals, and Mr. Korver sought opportunities to mold young impressionable students into contributing citizens of our society. Educators make a difference, and these three made a tremendous difference daily in the roles they played at Pella Middle School. We thank them all, and we wish them all the very best in their next adventures! Deb, Donna, and Karl - you’re the best!

“Retirement only means that it is time for a new adventure.” – author unknown

The more you put into something, the harder it is to give it up.

“Go Make a Difference” aligns with our district goal of “EXHIBIT GLOBAL AWARENESS”

7th Grade students create a business plan, pitch the business plan, select the business plan that makes the most business sense, apply for a small business loan through a bank, and execute the business plan by running a concession stand during the winter sports’ season. What a relevant learning experience for them, and every year they raise the bar on their previous year’s success! Thank you, Mrs. Schulz and Mrs. Sadler for leading this learning, and thank you for your generosity!

- \$480 Raining Season sponsoring a 14 year old
- \$200 JDRF
- \$200 Wounded Warrior
- \$200 Make a Wish
- \$400 Team Keegs
- \$400 Marijka
- \$100 Youth Emergency Shelter Services- YESS
- \$200 Speaker System Middle School
- \$200 DC/NYC Scholarship \$
- \$75 Recess Equipment
- \$1000 4th Quarter Building Reward Day



You can be the Best, You can do the Best, or you can give it your Best Shot.

Character Counts!

Congratulations to **Makanzie VanMaanen** and **Jack Stratton** honored with Character Counts awards for the class of 2020.

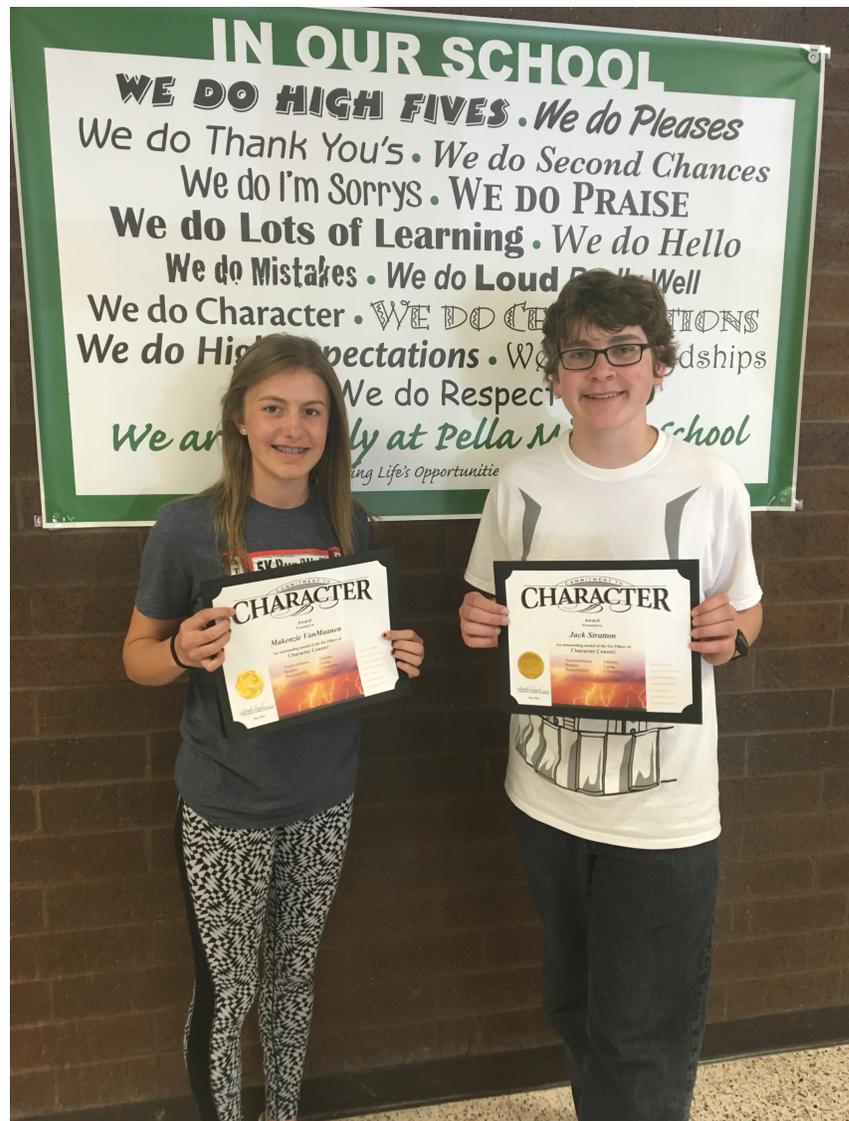
How were they selected?

Pella Middle School staff nominate 8th grade students who regularly demonstrate the Pillars of Character. All students nominated get a congratulatory

nomination letter sent to their parents. After their nominations, students are invited to apply for the character counts awards. The Character Counts Community Board then determines one 8th grade girl and boy as the winner for this year's

awards. Makanzie and Jack both selected foundations to donate \$50 to on their behalf. Once again, congratulations to both of these students; they are outstanding ambassadors for the

district, and they are both well deserving Pella Middle School students.



2016-2017 Staff Transitions

Leaving:

Debra Burney - Custodian

Donna Hasso - Spanish

Taelar Hillyer - 8th Grade Language Arts

Karl Korver - 8th Grade History

Alexis Krayenbrink - Orchestra

Mitch Foster - Teacher Associate

Anndressa Dannels - Teacher Associate

Incoming:

Josiah Brandt - 8th Grade Digital Media

Bret Denekas - Teacher Associate

Jerod Garland - 8th Grade History

Stephanie Graham - 5-12 Orchestra

Tammy Krebbs - Custodian

Juan Munoz - Spanish

Ashton Yossi - 8th Grade Math

Student Schedules

2016 - 2017

2016-2017 9th grade schedules were handed out the final week of the school year. Please look over your students' schedules with them. Email one of the high school counselors after August 1st for possible changes. These schedules are not set in stone, as high school classes still need to be balanced; students should view their schedules on Infinite Campus again before school begins.

Incoming 7th and 8th grade students' schedules will be available on Infinite Campus in August. Please call Anne Pentico if you have questions about your students' schedules once you receive them.

Learning is not a spectator sport.

7th Grade Anglers



In the spring, during our 7th grade-fishing unit, students learn to fish through the FISH IOWA Program offered by the DNR. During the unit students learn the flip, pitch, and overhand casts and use them in a casting competition put on by the FISH IOWA Program before heading out on our

annual fishing trip to Dutch Meadows pond. These students are our top finishers in the competition.

Top: Ashley VanderWilt, Adam Schreur, Austin Dingeman, Aaron Downs, Josh Bailey

Middle: Levi Roose, Ryan Mace, Drew Schulte, Emma Yoder, Camille Dixson, Rachel Coppock

Bottom: Callista Webb, Paige Trunnel, Erica Langstraat, Jack Edwards, Lucas Kiser

Participate Participate Participate

As we embark on another school year, we encourage all parents to encourage their son/daughter to participate. Tell them not to be afraid to try something new! Research supports participation, and we know participating in extra and co-curricular activities allows students to be part of a team working for the collective good. It also requires students to maintain respectable grades in order to remain eligible, and it affords students the opportunity to take risks - as a result, they are more likely to take academic risks in the classroom. Furthermore, participation gives them the opportunity to better understand the interdependent elements of a successful team or group. The opportunities are abundant in middle school, and we want every student to experience the lessons that come from joining something positive.

Middle School Volunteers at State Track Meet

Annually, Lincoln Elementary physical education teacher and middle school coach, Randy Wilson, takes a number of our 7th and 8th grade track athletes to the Iowa High School state track meet to assist with the operation of the meet. This proves to be an outstanding volunteer opportunity for our students, and the state meet directors have had nothing but excellent remarks about the service our students provided. They worked diligently to get hurdles set, sand raked, and shot puts and discs recovered. Thank you, Coach Wilson, for the opportunity, and thank you Pella Middle School students for once again representing our school and your families with character and hard work. We are very proud of you all!



Mr. Lowell Ernst Named Administrator of the Year

Lowell Ernst, Pella Schools Director of Curriculum and Instruction, was honored this past month as the School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) Central Office Administrator of the year. Lowell regularly works for all kids, and he is often doing so without notice. We could not accomplish what we do without him. (Photo and post on Twitter are courtesy of Mr. Ebeling, Pella Schools Superintendent)



Counselor's Connection

Online School Registration for the 2016-17 School Year is open...deadline to register is May 1!

There is a link to 2016-17 Registration in your Inbox under Messages on your [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#). The link reads as follows: "**Click here to register your student(s) for the 2016-17 school year!**"

Some of you have already found the link and have completed registration. Fees are now separate from registration. Fees will be available online starting July 1, 2016.

Questions regarding registration or your Infinite Campus credentials, contact Allissa Grandia by emailing allissa.grandia@pella.k12.ia.us or by calling [641-628-9539](tel:641-628-9539).

Thank you,

Allissa Grandia

District Registrar

Pella High School | 212 E. University Ave. | Pella, IA 50219

Thank you, Mrs. Pentico

2016 – 2017 Approved District Calendar:

http://www.pellaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17_SchoolCalendar.pdf

Activities/School Calendar - has ALL 2016 - 2017 district activities:

http://www.littlehawkeyeconference.com/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5genie=206&school_id=4

Middle School Specific Site:

<http://www.pellaschools.org/schools/middle-school/>

Middle School Handbook:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IsbdnoekXycEhaCmud0jfVtG3MQLNqjrFWv29sFkjk/edit>

Pella I:I Handbook:

https://docs.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/document/d/1QyO3_S4OmTFuauYwSz6lXI5SsjYh68y-h9K8qZ6M5VM/edit

Middle School Band:

<https://sites.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/middle-school-band/>

Pella Digital Learning Environment (DLE) Link:

<http://pcsd-dle.blogspot.com/>