

Pella High School

Principal Newsletter

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



The Pella High School staff and administration welcome all students and parents to the 2017-18 school year. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year. The school has a new look with all of the construction updates.

Eric Nelson, Principal
Jon Muller, Assistant Principal
Wade VanVark, Dean of Students
Teresa Thompson, School Counselor
Jessica Manning, School Counselor

Online Registration for the 2017-18 School year..... extended deadline to July 31

Deadline for registration was March 31st, but we have extended it for those who still need to register. Please follow the instructions under 'Existing Student' to complete the online registration. School fees and lunch fees can be paid under the Payments tab on your Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Questions regarding registration or your Infinite Campus log-in, please contact Allissa Grandia by emailing allissa.grandia@pella.k12.ia.us or by calling 641-628-9539.

Calendar

August

- 17th** Freshman & New Student Student Open House
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 23rd** First Day of School
- 30th** 90 Minute Early Dismissal
- 31st** Parent Information Night
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

September

- 4th** No School – Labor Day
- 13th** 90 Minute Early Dismissal

Registration Note of Freshmen & Seniors

Freshman – Dental Screening form must be completed by your dentist and returned to the high school office by August 23, 2017. [Click for Dental Screening form.](#)

Seniors - Senior Release form included in this newsletter must be completed and turn in to the office by August 23, 2017.

2017-18 Student Schedules

Student's schedules were distributed to students back in May. Students will be able to view their schedule on their Infinite Campus Portal after August 1. Have your son/daughter review their schedule and make sure these things are in place: 1) the required core classes needed in both semesters and 2) check for the elective(s) you prefer. August will be the time to make any changes in person to these schedules by adding (if class sizes allow) and/or dropping courses. Students will NOT be able to move classes to have a specific lunch, study or teacher. Counselors will be available: August 15, 16, 17 & 18 from 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00.

School Supply List

The high school supply list is a general list for students. Students should have notebooks, folders, #2 pencils, and pens for classes. The math department is recommending each student have a protractor and a TI-84 calculator. Students are also encouraged to have a USB jump drive to save/transport electronic materials. 8 Gig Jump drives will be available for purchase in the Student Help Center (Room 1217). The teacher of each class will provide more specifics of their requirements for the class with their class expectations.

Freshmen & New Student Open House, August 17

The high school will have an open house for all ninth graders, new students, and their parents/guardians on August 17 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The building will be open for all to walk through to become familiar with the layout before the first day of school. The school counselors and administrators will be available to answer questions. A group presentation will be given from 7:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. for new students. All ninth grade students were given an extensive guided tour and orientation of the high school last February.

Transcript Requests - Online

Please follow these steps on the Pella District website for any transcript requests:
<http://www.pellaschools.org/>

High School page > Gray box on right hand side > Forms & Resources > Transcript Request Form

2017-2018 Laptop Rollout

Returning students rollout plan:

Who: Any 9-12 student who was issued a laptop last year

When: Thursday, August 17, Friday, August 18, Monday, August 21, and Tuesday, August 22 from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Where: High school, room 1217 (Previously Room 118)

New high school students rollout plan:

Who: Any high school student that did not attend Pella schools last year

When: Thursday, August 17th 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Where: High school Library

The parent or guardian that signed the policy sheet last years is still financially responsible for any damages to the computer. If parent or guardianship has changed please notify the high school office immediately.

ACT Testing Website

Any student that is planning to take the ACT test for college admission requirements may visit this website for further details www.actstudent.org The ACT testing dates and locations as well as the online registration is all on this website. There are also tips and strategies for test taking, plus Test Prep information. Another test prep resource is located at this link:<http://www.doorwaytocollege.com/>

This is the company that comes into Pella HS a few times throughout the school year to host ACT test prep workshops.

Senior Release

Parents of seniors can elect to have your son/daughter have senior release privileges if they meet the criteria noted on the waiver. Seniors Release is a PRIVILEGE granted to seniors who meet the attendance, academic performance, and character requirements. Seniors who earn this privilege are not required to report to school until they have a scheduled class and may leave school when they are not scheduled for a class. *A parental waiver was emailed to each parent this summer for you to grant permission for your son/daughter to participate in Senior Release privileges ([click here for Senior Release](#)). If your son or daughter did not meet the criteria for eligibility a letter was sent home in June. All senior parents should complete the waiver regardless of eligibility if you want your son/daughter to have Senior Release privileges, during their Senior year when they become eligible.

Criteria for determining eligibility for senior release to begin the school year will be based upon the criteria noted on the waiver from the 2nd semester of their junior year.

Parking

Student parking has received a significant upgrade on campus this summer. The following are expectations for students in relation to parking/driving vehicles to school.

All students must register and obtain a parking tag in order to park on school grounds. Parking permits will be issued at the beginning of each school year at a cost \$5 and can be paid for online after July 1. Vehicle information should be entered under the transportation tab when registering students for school. Seniors and juniors will be given priority in receiving parking permits. Sophomores are eligible for a parking permit but are not guaranteed a permit. Freshmen are not eligible for a parking permit. A parking permit grants a student access to campus parking but does NOT guarantee a parking space, as parking is limited on campus.

Students are to park in designated student parking lots/areas only. All student parking is located south and east of the HS building in the designated student parking areas. Effective for the 2017/18 school year, there will be NO student parking in the Career Academy parking lot. This area is reserved for faculty/staff, visitors and students from neighboring districts enrolled for classes.

All students who are not issued a parking permit must park off of school grounds. Off campus parking is available at Caldwell Park, Faith Church, the tennis courts and legal street parking. For safety and security purposes, Faith Church does require students using their parking lot to register their vehicle and purchase a parking tag. The cost of a Faith church parking tag is \$5 for the year.

Students who park in school parking lots without a permit or park in “no parking” or “reserved parking” areas may have their permits revoked, be fined, and/or towed at their expense. Fines for illegal parking are \$15 for each offense. If a student consistently parks illegally or does not pay their parking fines, then they may lose additional privileges (open campus privileges, work release, parking privileges etc.) Students who drive in an unsafe manner may have their permits revoked, be fined or other disciplinary action(s) including suspension.

The school IS NOT responsible for lost items, stolen items, or vandalism to vehicles in the parking areas.

Parking Areas Defined:

Student Parking (located South and East of the High School building)

- Lower East Lot
- Upper East Lot
- South Lot
- Northeast Parent Loop

Faculty/Staff Parking

- SW Bus Loop
- Career Academy
- East Parent Loop

Visitor Parking

- SW Bus Loop
- East Parent Loop
- University Street

Picking up/dropping off students

With the completion of the new parent drop off/pick up loop, all parents are to drop off and pick up at the east entrance of the High School building. Parents may enter off of University street, proceed north and enter the parent drop off/pick up loop on the north end. Parents will exit the parking lot onto University street after dropping off/picking up.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

August 31 – Parent Information Night--Parent Follow Student Schedule

5:30 - 6:00 Open time for parents

5:45 - Parents provided student schedules

6:00 - HS meeting in Auditorium

6:20 - 7:40 Visit Classrooms - Follow son/daughter's schedule for periods 1 - 8
10 minutes per class

7:40 - 8:30 Open time for parents

**This parent-teacher conference is designed to provide parents an overview of their son/daughter's course. Each teacher will provide the parent with information of the course such as Big Ideas/Essential Questions, class expectations, communications lines, office hours, etc.

October 16 -- Parent/Teacher Conference -- Open Forum

4:30 - 8:00 High School--All staff will be in the commons or front lobby.

November 13 -- Parent/Teacher Conference — Individual Conference in Teacher's Room

4:30 - 8:00 High School -- All staff will be in their classrooms.

February 12-- Parent/Teacher Conferences -- Excellence in Electives

4:30 - 8:00 High School -- Excellence in Electives

Excellence in Electives from 5:30 - 7:00.

Individual conferences in classrooms for those teachers not involved with Excellence in Electives. All teachers will be available in their classroom from 7:30 – 8:00.

Distinguished Service Program

Pella High School Distinguished Service Program is a program that encourages students to volunteer in our community and school; all hours must be served in Pella. Participation is not required. Those who choose to partake and who serve 100 hours or more throughout their four years at Pella High School will receive a Distinguished Service Award and a special cord to wear at graduation to denote their volunteerism.

Students will need to complete an "Hours Log" (including a supervisor's signature) to validate the hours they have served. Hours will be collected at the end of each quarter. Hours logs can be obtained from the High School office or online on the High School website under [forms & resources](#)

Student Support Services

The Pella High School Student Support Services is available to assist students and families in many life circumstances that could affect students' schooling. The services include academic assistance and planning, career and college planning, and personal or social situations. Students and parents are encouraged to contact the counselors to assist with situations that arise. It is beneficial to the students when the staff and families can work together as a team. There are also many community resources the guidance staff can suggest for any further assistance needed. The Pella High School counselors are Mrs. Manning and Mrs. Thompson.

No Quarter Grades

The Pella High School will not have quarter grades for the 2017-18 school year. We will have midterm grades at the end of the 9-weeks for each semester. This will support the efforts of SMART lunch allowing students being able to redo/retake assessments with the final grade calculations only at the end of the semester.

Student/Parent Handbook

The student handbook will be located on the student 1:1 laptop this year. All students are responsible for reading and becoming familiar with these policies. Parents should also review the student handbook. Here is a link to the [2017-18 Student Handbook](#)

District Website

Please use the district's website: www.pellaschools.org to find information concerning:

- Daily Student Announcements
- Weekly teacher lesson plans and daily assignments
- Student Achievement data
- District goals and school improvement plans
- Athletic Website
- Guidance information
- HS Website

Entering/Exiting The Building

ALL students are to use either the east entrance OR main entrance to exit or enter the building during school hrs. Student may use other exterior door(s) when arriving to school and leaving the school at the end of the day. All exterior doors will lock at 8:20am. All students entering after 8:20 a.m. will need to use the east entrance or the main entrance and pass through the office(s).

Faculty Office Hours

Office hours are available to all students needing additional support and instruction in their academic classes. Parents are strongly encouraged to know the times of the office hours for your student's teachers and support/encourage them to attend these times if they are needing assistance with their academics. Academic responsibilities take precedence over extra curricular commitments. All office hours can be found on the Pella High School Website under the "staff" tab on the high school main page.

School Property After Hours

Parents are asked to please inform their sons/daughters not be on school property after dark unless it is associated with a school activity. Any student found to be defacing school property will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Please help the district build pride and respect in our schools, rather than the reverse. Your support is appreciated.

Drivers Education

Drivers Educaiton is provided by Teen Driver Inc., a company from Indianola, Iowa. Class sessioins are held in Pella during the summer, fall, and spring. For more information go to their website www.teendriverinc.com or call 511-729-3414 or 515-559-4762.

Education Equity Policy Statement

Board Policy 102

It is the policy of the Pella Community School not to discriminate on the basis of, and including but not limited to, age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status in its educational program, activities, or employment policies as required by Title VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, and Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

It is also the policy of this district the curriculum content and instructional materials utilized reflect the cultural and racial diversity present in the United States and the variety of careers, roles, and opportunities open to women and men in our society. One of the objectives of the total curriculum and teaching strategies is to eliminate stereotyping and bias on the basis of, and including but not limited to, age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status. The curriculum should foster respect and responsibilités of each individual as a member of a pluralist society.

It is also the policy of this agency to provide a fair and supportive work environment for all employees regardless of, and including but not limited to, their age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status. Harassment of a sexual nature or with demeaning intent related to, and including but not limited to, age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status made by one employee to another is a violation of this policy.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, Title VI, or Section 504 may be directed to Lowell Ernst, 212 E. University Street, Pella, Iowa 641/628-3870, or to the Director of the Region VII Offices of Civil Rights, Department of Education, Kansas City, Missouri.

Updated: 4/1/11

School Calendar

On our district website, there is a school calendar of events for the [2017-18 school year](#). Events can be sorted by topic and printed. We hope this calendar will be helpful to you and your family.

August - October

August 17	Freshman & New Student Open House 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
August 23	First Day of School
August 30	90 Minute Early Dismissal
August 31	Parent Information Night 5:30 - 8:00

Sept. 4	No School – Labor Day
Sept. 13	90 Minute Early Dismissal
Sept. 15	3-Week Grade Check
Sept. 18-22	Homecoming Week
Sept. 20	90 Minute Early Dismissal
Sept. 27	90 Minute Early Dismissal

Oct. 2	No School - Teacher Professional Development Day
Oct. 6	6-Week Grade Check
Oct. 11	90 Minute Early Dismissal
Oct. 16	Parent Teacher Conferences: Open Forum
Oct. 18	PSAT Test
Oct. 20	No School - P/T Comp. Day
Oct. 25	90 Minute Early Dismissal
Oct. 27	Midterm

Go to www.pella.k12.ia.us and click on the calendar tab to see all events/activities. You may also access the calendar by going to www.littlehawkeyeconference.com