

Pella High School

Principal Newsletter

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



Dear Parents,

I would like to personally thank parents, students and staff for their hard work and patience during the renovation of our High School. We have successfully maneuvered around barricaded hallways and dedicated construction workers throughout these months; and it is exciting to see the results as we continue in the final stages of our project.

September was a busy month of activities with our football, cross country, and volleyball seasons well under way. We also hosted 16 schools for the marching band Dutch Invitational. Plus, an outstanding week of celebration during Homecoming. We are filled with Pella Pride as we continue to see the excitement and participation in our high school activities.

We appreciate the opportunity to meet with parents/guardians during conference time, which is scheduled for October 16. I encourage you to take this time to touch base with your child's teachers during the open forum schedule. The Open Forum provides an opportunity for parents to visit their child's teacher in either the Commons or Front Lobby without an appointment.

Thank you,

Eric Nelson
Principal

Jon Muller
Assistant Principal

Wade Van Vark
Dean

Calendar

Oct 2: No School -- Professional Development

Oct 6: Post Grades

Oct 11: Professional Development:
90-Minute Early Dismissal

Oct 16: Parent Teacher Conferences -
Open Forum

Oct 17: 2-Hour Early Dismissal

Oct 19: 2-Hour Early Dismissal

Oct 20: No School

Oct 25: Professional Development:
90-Minute Early Dismissal

Oct 27: Mid Terms

Parent-Teacher Conferences: October 16 -- Open Forum

Parent-Teacher Conferences at the high school will be on Monday, October 16, from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. This session will follow a traditional format. All teachers will be located in the Commons or Front Lobby. Athletic coaches will be at the conferences by 5:30 p.m.

During Parent Teacher conferences, the guidance office staff will be available for appointments. If you have questions regarding student needs or concerns, including academic or social, or post-secondary options such as college admission requirements, college visits, and college and/or scholarship applications, please schedule a time to meet on October 16th.

[Wade VanVark](#) | [Jessica Manning](#) | [Teresa Thompson](#)

Parent-Teacher Conferences: November 13 -- Individual Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences at the high school will be on Monday, November 13, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. All teachers will be located in their classrooms. Athletic coaches will be at the conferences by 5:30 p.m.

Have you moved? Do you have a new phone number or a new email address?

Through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (ICPP), parents are able to update emails, phone numbers, addresses and emergency contacts through the Infinite Campus parent portal. See the steps below on how to make your updates on the ICPP:

- **Address update:** under Family > Household Information
- **Phone & Email update:** under Family > Family Members
- **Emergency Contact update:** under Student > Demographics

What have we spent on school fees and school lunch?

Through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (ICPP), parents are able to see a journal on all fees paid to the Pella Schools for school fees and food service fees. See the steps below on how to see that fee journal on the ICPP:

- **Fee Journal:** under Family > Fees > Select "All Years" or year specific > Select "All Members" or student specific
- **Food Service:** under Family > Food Service > Select a patron > Select your date range to preview

Seniors and Scholarships

College visit dates, scholarship deadlines, and financial aid notices are all located in the Senior Bulletin, which can be found on the announcement page on the school website.

Financial Aid

The planning for further education greatly hinges on financial aid for families, especially as educational costs continue to rise. The regulations within the financial aid world recently changed, and now families and seniors are allowed to apply for aid sooner than in the past (Oct. 1). Please visit the ICAN website for any assistance about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online filing process and policies.

http://www.icansucceed.org/en/studentsparents/high_school/pay_for_college/financial_aid_process/fafsa/

Articles of Interest:

- “Has the Smartphone Destroyed a Generation?” by Jean Twenge in *The Atlantic*, September 2017 (Vol. 320, #2, p. 58-65), <http://theatlantic.com/2017/09/2017-smartphone-generation/>
- “Teens and Depression” by Dr. Don Mordecai in *The Costco Connection*, September 2017, <https://drive.google.com/drive/recent>
- “After decades of pushing bachelor’s degrees, U.S. needs more tradespeople.” by Matt Krupnick in the Hechinger Report, August 29, 2017
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/decades-pushing-bachelors-degrees-u-s-needs-tradespeople/#.Wadhw9XeTUK.facebook>

School Calendar

- October 2:** No School -- Professional Development
6: Post Grades
11: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
16: Parent Teacher Conferences - Open Forum
17: 2-Hour Early Dismissal
19: 2-Hour Early Dismissal
20: No School
25: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
27: Mid Terms
- November 1:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
8: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
13: Parent Teacher Conferences - Individual Conferences
15: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
22: 90-Minute Early Dismissal - Thanksgiving Break
23 & 24: No School -- Thanksgiving Break
28: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- December 6:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
13: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
22: 90-Minute Early Dismissal - Winter Break
- December 23 - January 2:** No School
- January 3:** School Reconvenes
10 & 11: Semester Assessments
11: End of Semester One
12: No School - Teacher Work Day
15: Day One of Second Semester
16: Semester One Grade Due at 9:00 a.m.