

Pella High School

Principal Newsletter

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



Dear Parents/Guardians:

We welcomed students and staff back this week after a long Thanksgiving break. It is a wonderful time of year to stop and reflect on our surroundings.

The administrators at Pella Community High School are thankful for the students who create the amazing energy in our building, parents who support their children and partner with our district by helping the kids stay connected, teachers and staff who educate and guide our students, and a beautifully renovated facility to house it all.

We head into the holiday season with a sense of anticipation-looking forward to projects being completed, winter activities beginning, and the semester winding down in January. Thank you for the continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,

Eric Nelson
Principal

Jon Muller
Assistant Principal

Wade VanVark
Dean

December Calendar

6th - Professional Development:
90-Minute Early Dismissal

13th - Professional Development:
90-Minute Early Dismissal

22nd - 90-Minute Early Dismissal -
Winter Break

December 23 - January 2
No School

Semester Assessment Schedule: January 10 & 11

Semester assessments will be given in all classes. The students will be assessed in multiple ways by the high school teachers. A student may be evaluated with a standard semester test, a project, a portfolio, a presentation, or essay, etc.

1. There will be 80 minute assessment sessions on January 10 & 11.
2. Students are only required to be in school if they have a test. Students should be in the cafeteria, the library, or leave campus if they do not have an assessment. Students are not to be in the academic areas of the building during semester assessments.
3. All students will eat during the same single lunch period.
4. Students who cannot take their assessments during the scheduled semester test days will be expected to make-up assessments on or after January 12. All make-up assessments must be coordinated with teachers. Students are not allowed to move any semester assessments.
5. Students are not to be dismissed early from assessment sessions.

January 10 & 11 Assessment Schedule (80 Minutes per Assessment)

Wednesday, January 10 (p1-4)	Thursday, January 11 (p5-8)
1st - 8:15 - 9:35	5th - 8:15 - 9:35
2nd - 9:45 - 11:05	6th - 9:45 - 11:05
Lunch - 11:05 - 12:25	Lunch - 11:05 - 12:25
3rd - 12:25 - 1:45	7th - 12:25 - 1:45
4th - 1:55 - 3:15	8th - 1:55 - 3:15

2nd Semester Class Schedules, Course Drops or Adds

Through the Infinite Campus portal, students and parents are able to view and print class schedules from the **Reports tab**. Second semester schedules may have changed since first semester, so please review student schedules on the campus portal. Also, please encourage your students to review their second semester schedule before Winter break.

At the beginning of each semester, students will be allowed five (5) school days in which to add or drop a course. After the tenth (10) school day, dropping a course will result in an "F" for the class, unless an extreme circumstance exists.

Planning

Students are always encouraged to plan ahead in regard to their class options and future plans. Our hope is that students choose classes that will help them explore a variety of fields and possibly even narrow down some future career options. If you would like to discuss your student's four-year academic plan, please contact one of our counselors, Teresa Thompson or Jessica Manning, to set up a meeting.

1st Semester Report Cards

Grades for Semester 1 are due January 16, 2018 by 9:00am. By the end of that week, **report cards** will be made available on the Infinite Campus parent portal under the “Reports” tab.

School Closing or Dismissals due to Weather

It is that time of year again where we have the possibility of closing school, starting late, or dismissing early due to weather issues. We will continue to notify parents and students through Infinite Campus. The following sources will also have announcements:

- Pella Community School District Website
- KNIA/KRSL
- WHO TV: Channel 13
- WHO Radio
- KCCI TV: Channel
- LOCAL abc5 - We Are IOWA : Channel 5
- KCOB/KRTI
- KBOE
- KCWN

From the Dean's Desk

Thank you to all of those who have made attendance and grades a priority first semester. So far this year the senior class's attendance rate is around 97% and as a group the seniors are passing roughly 98% of all their classes! Both of those numbers are outstanding and are both determining factors in senior release privileges. At the end of this semester student records will be reviewed. Semester grades and attendance reports will determine whether a student is granted senior release to begin second semester. More specific details can be found on page 18 of the student handbook.

Again, thank you for a great first semester (so far), and encourage your students to finish strong.

ARTICLES of Interest:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/what-mentally-strong-people-dont-do/201711/10-reasons-american-teenagers-are-more-anxious-ever>

https://growingleaders.com/blog/heavy-price-pay-iphones-become-babysitters/?utm_source=Master+List+%28Monthly%2C+Weekly%2C+Daily%2C+Events+%26+Offers%29&utm_campaign=b4fb5ab2de-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b8af65516c-b4fb5ab2de-304166589&mc_cid=b4fb5ab2de&mc_eid=0b71fdb586

School Calendar - Quarter Two

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.