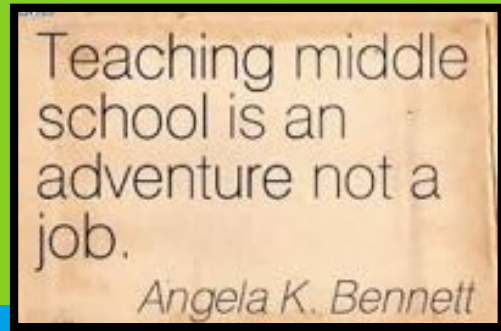


# Pella Middle School



You have awesome kids, and we are grateful to you, as well as them, for their accomplishments, growth, and maturity this school year. I can't believe how quickly the year has passed - Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, is the first day of the fourth quarter!

Your eighth grader is a quarter away from being a high school student! I'm sure it feels a bit surreal for some of you, but you should be reassured that they are showing us they're becoming more ready every day to take the next step in their educational journey.

Seventh grade parents, I told your students recently how excited we are for them to be the leaders of the building next year; I'm certain they will be ready to step up and fill that role.

With that being said, please join us in encouraging your students not to wish the time away; these last two months of school are just as important as our first two months. Let's finish strong!

## Dates to remember:

3/23 - End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter  
 3/26 - 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter begins  
 3/29 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Grade Posted  
 (2<sup>nd</sup> semester midterm grades)  
 3/30 - No School (Good Friday)  
 4/8 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party Planning Mtg.  
 4/11 - 90-minute early dismissal PD  
 4/18 - 90-minute early dismissal PD  
 4/21 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party 6:30-10:00  
 4/25 - 90-minute early dismissal PD  
 5/3 - 11:15 Dismissal (Tulip Time)  
 5/4 - 11:15 Dismissal (Tulip Time)  
 5/28 - Memorial Day - No Class  
 5/31 - Final Day of School  
 5/31 - 12:30 Dismissal

*Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child*

# Important Information

**\*Change at the Middle School\***

## Cell Phones, Laptops, and Devices No Longer Allowed at Lunch

Becoming an effective communicator and building caring relationships are district brand pillars and goals; unfortunately, students' devices and phones interfere with our ability to successfully do both. After watching "Screenagers" in February, we asked the students to complete a survey about their thoughts on this video and what we could do to support students in our school in regard to screen time. Many students questioned why we allow technological devices at lunch. After much reflection on this, I have asked students to leave all their technology devices in their lockers on a daily basis starting Monday, March 26, the first day of quarter four. Furthermore, I also reminded students not to play violent games on their school issued laptops.

Please know this is not intended to be a punishment. I truly feel a sense of responsibility to help our students accomplish both our district goals, particularly building caring relationships because I know how badly kids yearn to feel known, accepted, and loved. We want to encourage our students to have conversations in person over lunch rather than over their devices. Students may still check their phones during passing periods, but it is our expectation that all phones be kept in their locked lockers for the entirety of the school day. As always, you can get a hold of your students by contacting the office. Thank you for your support regarding this change.

### Social & Emotional Building Goal

*100% of students will have an adult they can go to if they have a question, problem, or need help.*

Why is this important? We feel very strongly that our students should have at least one adult in our building they can depend on while they are at Pella Middle School trying to navigate this unique time of their lives.



*Ability is what you have; skill is what you learn.*

# Important Information

**Class of  
2022**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party!**

**Saturday, April 21**

**6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade party planning is well underway, and the next planning meeting will be Thursday, April 5 starting at 6:00 at the Middle School. A big 'Thank you' to Tricia Williams for overseeing this year's party. A few things to remember.

1. Party registration forms and fees are due. Please turn in to the office at your earliest convenience, and do not hesitate to contact me if you need assistance.
2. The planning committee can always use extra support, volunteers, creative ideas, or donations.
3. Parents are to be thanked for making this a wonderful celebration, because you continue to find methods of making this a special and memorable celebration for your students.

## Fourth Quarter Reward or Celebration Day

On a quarterly basis, we strive to find ways to reward, connect, and build relationships with our students. As we enter the fourth quarter, we are brainstorming what we will do to celebrate a great 2017-2018 school year. In order to attend the reward portion of our end of the year celebration, students must have all their responsibilities (such as missing or late work) completed. We will then allow students to select their rewards or activities prioritized and based on the responsibility they have demonstrated for fourth quarter. By starting day one of quarter four, it will give every student a fresh start. Prioritization is based on the following scale for late or missing work fourth quarter:

1st: 0 -1    2nd: 2 - 5    3rd: 6 - 9    Final Choice: 10+

Our student council will support this opportunity and help us determine what we will do in conjunction with our staff building leadership team.



**A big part of being successful is being prepared.**

# Pursuing Excellence

## Outstanding Writers

Six Pella Middle School students were recently awarded recognition in a writing contest co-sponsored by Belin-Blank Center and Scholastic Books. Pella winners include: Gold Key winner Riley Sorheim, Silver Key winner Emily Carlo, and Honorable Mention winners Gabby Steiner, Piper Eighmy, Luke Fairchild, and Camden Holland.

These students are among the artists and writers in grades 7-12 who submitted more than 7,000 entries to the 2018 competition. Students, along with their teachers, were invited to be honored guests at ***The Belin-Blank Center Presents: A Scholastic Celebration in Three Acts*** on March 10 on The University of Iowa campus in Iowa City. The celebration is an exciting event recognizing the very best artists and writers in the Iowa and Midwest Regions.



Students Luke Fairchild, Camden Holland, Gabby Steiner, Emily Carlo, and Riley Sorheim display certificates recently awarded for their writing efforts. (Piper Eighmy, absent)



Several students participated the Math Counts competition again this year, and they came in 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. Well done and well deserved by this group of students pictured on the left!



*You can be the best, you can do the best, or you can give it your best shot.*



# Exhibiting Global Awareness

## Math Olympics

One of our math classes created a Math Olympics opportunity that took place during the winter Olympics. The winner of the synchronized coloring (distributive property/combining like terms skill) of the Math Olympic games was Branden and B'lana who chose to represent the country of Sweden, so they listened to Sweden's National Anthem.



## Coffee Cart Sales

**THANK YOU** to all staff in supporting our coffee sales in January and February! We were able to donate one goat, two chickens, and 4 soccer balls through WorldVision! We appreciate our staff's help in teaching our students to give back to others and exhibit global awareness.



*The only time success comes before work is in the dictionary.*

# Building Caring Relationships

## Third Quarter Club Day Photos





# Maximizing Life's Opportunities...

## Hoops for Heart Staff vs Students Game Photos



# Character Counts



## Calendars and Helpful Links

### **2017-2018 Approved District Calendar:**

<http://www.pellaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FINAL-of-2017-18-approved-2-13-17.pdf>

### **Middle School Specific Site:**

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

### **Middle School Handbook:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rUWOmkYWFolz2wtEzKRP25fo86sENvXtpd-mDCAIU-4/edit>

### **Middle School Band:**

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

### **Pella I:I Handbook:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lwKAUBESJbVmRgTpaU2ijBq4tpCo-Z\\_VFNmf-gfe6Ag/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lwKAUBESJbVmRgTpaU2ijBq4tpCo-Z_VFNmf-gfe6Ag/edit)

### **Activities/School Calendar - has ALL 2017 - 2018 district Activities:**

<http://www.pellaschools.org/calendar/>