

Pella High School

Principal Newsletter

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



Dear Parents/Guardians:

It seems appropriate to start this month's newsletter out with many thanks. Thank you to the coaches, directors, athletes, and performers who dedicated their time and talent towards a fall full of fun athletic events and activities. Thank you also to the teachers, staff, and students for their continual efforts in pursuing excellence, building caring relationships and respecting and developing every child's potential. And thank you to the parents and guardians for their supportive collaboration with Pella High School. We appreciate all of you!

Thank you,

Eric Nelson
Principal

Derek Schulte
Assistant Principal

1st Semester Report Cards

Grades for Semester 1 are due January 15, 2019 by 9:00 a.m. By the end of that week, **report cards** will be made available on the Infinite Campus parent portal under the "Reports" tab.

December 2018

Calendar

- Dec. 5** 90 Minute Early Dismissal
Professional Dev.
- Dec. 7** 3-Week Grade Check
- Dec. 12** 90 Minute Early Dismissal
Professional Dev.
- Dec. 21** 90 Minute Early Dismissal
Winter Break
- Dec. 22 - Jan 2:**
No School

* 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

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 14. 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)

Thursday, January 10 (p1-4)	Friday, 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 the 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 school day, dropping a course will result in an "F" for the class, unless an extreme circumstance exists.

Apprenticeship Opportunities: 2019-20 School Year

Pella High School is excited to introduce three new Apprenticeship programs that will be offered at the Career Academy of Pella: **Culinary Arts, Engineer Technician and Nursing**. Along with the **Welding** apprenticeship, PCSD offers students these four opportunities to earn while they learn. We are fortunate to be working with amazing local businesses to help create career pathways for our young adults. There will be a meeting scheduled in late January to provide more information on the Apprenticeship program. If you have questions before then, please contact Mr. Nelson, or the high school counselors: Mrs. Thompson or Mrs. Manning.

 [Engineering Technician Apprenticeship Brochure](#)

 [Welding Apprenticeship Brochure](#)

 [Chef De Partie Apprenticeship Brochure](#)

 [Nurse Assistant Apprenticeship Brochure](#)

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.

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 by phone & email. You can also opt-in to receive text messages by texting "Yes" to 675-87. The following sources will also have announcements:

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

Senior Release Information

Thank you to all of those who have made attendance and grades a priority first semester. So far this year the senior class' attendance rate is around 96% 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.

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

Article of Interest:

<https://www.waituntil8th.org/blog/2018/11/12/middle-school-misfortunes-then-and-now-one-teachers-take>

Calendar: December - January

Dec. 5	Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
Dec. 7	15-Week Grade Check
Dec. 12	Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
Dec. 21	90-Minute Early Dismissal - Winter Break
Dec. 22 - Jan 2:	No School
Jan. 3	School Reconvenes
Jan. 10 & 11	Semester Assessments
Jan. 11	End of Semester One
Jan. 14	No School - Teacher Work Day
Jan. 15	Day One of Second Semester
Jan. 15	Semester One Grade Due at 9:00 a.m.

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