

# Pella High School

## Principal Newsletter

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



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The school year has been interesting with all of the weather issues. The students have handled the winter issues well and continue to strive to do their best. We appreciate your efforts to continue to motivate your sons and daughters through these difficult winter days.

The new statewide assessment is much different than the previous Iowa Assessments. This high stakes testing needs to have the students prepare and practice for each test. It will also cause schedule changes on the days of the practice testing and testing days. I have listed additional information below from the first newsletter and the practice schedule for March. We appreciate communicating the importance of the test with your child and the importance of them doing their best.

Thank you,

Eric Nelson  
**Principal**

Derek Schulte  
**Assistant Principal**

### *March 2019 Calendar*

**Mar. 6** Professional Development  
90-Minute Early Dismissal

**Mar. 7** Iowa State Assessment of  
Student Progress (ISASP)  
Math Practice Test

**Mar. 11-15** Spring Break

**Mar. 20** Professional Development  
90-Minute Early Dismissal

**Mar. 21** ISASP Reading Practice  
Test

**Mar. 27** Professional Development  
90-Minute Early Dismissal

**Mar. 28** ISASP Writing Practice Test

**Mar. 29** Mid Term

\* Go to [www.pella.k12.ia.us](http://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](http://www.littlehawkeyeconference.com)

## *Information on the New Iowa Statewide Assessment*

The state of Iowa has introduced a new state assessment that will be given to every student in grades 3-11 during the fourth quarter of this year. The test is called the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student progress or ISASP. The Pella Community Schools will give these tests during the week of April 15. Grades 5, 8, and 10 will take an additional science test the following week. Here are some things you may want to know about the tests:

- The tests are not timed. Students can take as long as they need but the following guidelines have been given to us for planning.
  - Reading - allow 60 minutes for grades 3-11
  - Math - allow for 60 minutes for grades 3-11
  - Language Arts / Writing - allow 120 minutes for grades 3-11 ( we will split this over two days)
  - Science - allow 60 minutes for grades 5, 8, and 10
- Students will only take one test per day.
- Grades 3-6 will be taking the tests in paper format while grades 7-11 will take them online.
- Questions are now varied in style including essay, short answer, and multiple choice.

The students will be taking a practice test in each area over the next two months. This will introduce them to the format and help them learn the tools that are built into the online system for grades 7-11. If you would like to view the practice tests for any grade level, they are available at [this link](#).

## *Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP): Practice Testing*

We will have three school wide practice tests for the Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress on March 7, 21, and 28. All freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will report to their 4th period class at 8:10 a.m. for the practice tests. Seniors will not need to report to school until 9:00 a.m. on the three practice test days.

<b>ISASP Practice Testing - 09:00 Class Schedule</b>		
ISASP Practice Test for Grades: 9, 10, 11	8:10 - 8:55	(45 minutes)
<b>Seniors Report at 9:00</b>		
Period 4	9:00 - 9:37	(37 min)
Period 1	9:42 - 10:19	(37 min)
Period 2	10:24 - 11:01	(37 min)
Period 3	11:06 - 11:43	(37 min)
<b>LUNCH 11:45 - 12:38</b>		
iLearn A	11:47 - 12:11	(25min)
iLearn B	12:13 - 12:38	(25min)
Period 5	12:40 - 1:17	(37 min)
Period 6	1:22 - 1:59	(37 min)
Period 7	2:04 - 2:41	(37 min)
Period 8	2:46 - 3:23	(37 min)

## *Report Cards for your Insurance Company*

If your insurance company is in need of your child's report card, please print the report card from the "Reports" tab on the parent portal. Please, do not print off grades from the "Grades" tab. If you need assistance to access your child's information, please contact Allissa Grandia at [allissa.grandia@pella.k12.ia.us](mailto:allissa.grandia@pella.k12.ia.us)

## *ACT workshop*

An ACT workshop is planned at Pella High School for March 27 & 28th, 6:30-9pm. This two night workshop will cover all four of the ACT testing subjects. An instructor from the ZAPS company will lead students in a classroom setting with tips and strategies for the ACT standardized test. It is encouraged for juniors to take the ACT test this spring or summer (dates in April, June, or July) if they are anticipating attending a four year institution. Please visit the [Doorway to College](#) website (look for the Register Now tab) to register for the workshop and to find any further study tips and stats on the ZAPs workshop benefits.

## *Junior Parents: Financial Aid Night*

Pella High School is bringing ICAN (Iowa College Access Network) to present a **Financial Aid Night** on Monday, April 1st. This event will be at 7pm in the High School Auditorium. Please put this on your calendar to attend if you have a junior student. ICAN is a fabulous resource which also provides a wealth of information for students, parents, and schools. The Financial Aid presentation will cover the details of completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as well as other grants and loans offered through this application. The reporting requirements have changed in this federal program recently, which allows for families to file earlier than senior year to determine eligibility for federal student aid.

## *Open Campus Next Year*

Please continue to make attendance and grades a priority for your students, as Open Campus eligibility for next year's juniors during SMART Lunch and seniors during open periods is determined **this semester**. Parent permission for Open Campus for next year's juniors and seniors is found in the 2019-20 Online Registration. No paper forms will be sent home.

## *Senior Service Day*

Our annual Senior Service Day is Wednesday, April 24. Seniors are encouraged to sign up and take part in clean-up and maintenance projects throughout the community. More information and a permission slip will be shared during Homeroom in early April.

## *2019-20 Pella Schools Registration: Deadline to Register Online is March 31*

To complete registration, visit [www.pellaschools.org/register](http://www.pellaschools.org/register) and follow the steps under "Returning Student". Or, simply find the "Online Registration" button on your Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The required 2019-20 Textbook Fee will be available under the "Payments" section too. Optional Fees such as Athletic Passes, Yearbook, Band Fee, Choir Fee, and parking permits will be available on July 1.

## Senior Volunteer Hours

Any seniors collecting volunteer hours for our Distinguished Service Program should submit all the hours they have by Friday, April 26. If they are planning to accumulate hours during Tulip Time, they should still submit their other hours by the 26th, so we can try to complete the logging process. Tulip Time hours will still be counted; just turn them in the Monday after. The final deadline for seniors' hours will be Monday, May 6.

## *Calendar Semester 2:*

- March 6:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal  
**7:** Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) Math Practice Test  
**11-15:** Spring Break  
**20:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal  
**21:** ISASP Reading Practice Test  
**27:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal  
**28:** ISASP Writing Practice Test  
**29:** MidTerm
- April 3:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal  
**6:** Junior/Senior Prom  
**10:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal  
**15-18:** Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) Week  
**18:** Post 12-Week Grades  
**19:** No School  
**22:** ISASP Science Test (Sophomores Only)  
**24:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- May 2:** Tulip Time - 11:15 Dismissal  
**3:** Tulip Time - 11:15 dismissal  
**8:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal  
Senior Awards Night  
**10:** Post 15-Week Grades  
**15:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal  
**23:** Seniors Last Day  
**24:** Graduation
- June 5, 6, & 7:** Semester Assessment, Laptop Return, & Student Check-Out  
**7:** Last Day of School - 12:30 Dismissal

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