

PELLA MIDDLE SCHOOL

February Newsletter

“Together”

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The third quarter ends Friday, concert season is nearing its end, and track started this week for the boys and girls. Really?! It's hard to believe your seventh grade students are three-fourths of the way to being eighth grade students, and your eighth grade students are three-fourths of the way to being freshmen. It has been a very different year with very different challenges; however, both grade levels have risen to the challenges of learning in a mess. They have all demonstrated flexibility with the movement of their classes, and some classes have moved more than once. Their lockers have been moved, and the numbers changed for some. None of this seemed to get in their way as they continued with their education. Our students have modeled to us tolerance and teamwork, and we are so grateful to each of them for their efforts. I am also thankful for their willingness to step up and assist with moving old and new furniture and classrooms while dodging the furniture and construction equipment as they navigated the hallways. If your student is not a great helper at home, I know they should and could be, because I have witnessed it all year! You're raising great kids!

8th Grade Specific

- **Class Registration - February 27th**
 - If you have not talked to your student in regards to them registering for their 9th grade classes, please do so!

- **8th Grade Party**
 - Saturday, April 18, from 6:00 - 10:00 PM
 - Planning meetings have been held in the middle school commons or new learning street:
 - Next Meeting - Wednesday, March 11, at 6:30
 - If you are unable to attend and would like to contribute, please feel free to contact the 8th grade party facilitator:
 - Carrie Valster: carrie.valster@gmail.com

ALL STUDENTS

- **New 5-8 Band Director**
 - Gabe Schott (pronounced "shot") has accepted our 5-8 band director position. He is a December graduate of UNI, and he is originally from North Polk, Alleman. Gabe is currently serving as our Orchestra/Band instructor/associate, and he is eager to serve the band program. Welcome, Gabe!

- **Mix It Up Monday Lunch**

- This was a very successful student experience, and several staff participated as well. Students were asked to sit at tables according to their birth month, and they were not to have any technology with them. We were hoping students would get to know other students, and it seemed there was a lot of good conversation. They were very worried about not having their technology; however, they did great without it! We will do this again soon!
- **Student Celebration Day - Success!**
 - The pictures below are from the day.
 - High school and middle school students built a picnic table
 - Hoops for Heart Basketball Tournament
 - Robin Hamman talking about POE
 - Iowa Barnstormers participated in the event
 - Several local business contributed with donations, and we are so thankful for their generosity!
 - Jimmy Johns
 - Pizza Ranch
 - HyVee
 - Fareway





- **MS Furniture!**

- Furniture began arriving Monday, February 16th
- It has been trickling in ever since, and we are hopeful the final load will arrive in the next two weeks.
- The students have been tremendous supports and help through this process. Thank you, students!
- Some examples are below.



● **MS Murals**

- Andrea VanWyk had students create mural concepts in Art class; hats off to Mrs. VanWyk and her students for the incredible art they have created. It is nice to have color in the halls!
 - All students voted on the top 4/65 mural concepts, and they are painting them now.
 - We will paint a new mural every two years based on student ideas





- **1:1 Laptops**

- Take a look inside your student's laptop bag.
 - Does it appear they are keeping the charger wrapped up correctly?
 - Is there a bunch of trash in the bag?
 - Are there other unnecessary items in there?
- Partnering with your student and keeping a close eye on their device could help him/her avoid unnecessary issues or fees.

- **Host a Student from Another Country**

- Want to experience what it's like to host a student from another country? Consider opening your home to a student from the Netherlands April 25-May 13. For more information, contact Kathy Jaarsma-Tripp at Tripp Kathy u5tripp@iowatelecom.net or Ann Visser at avisser@lisco.com.

2014 - 2015 Calendars

2014 - 2015 Approved District Calendar

<http://www.pellaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/14-15District-Calendar.pdf>

Activities/School Calendar - has ALL 2014 - 2015 district activities updated on it
http://www.littlehawkeyeconference.com/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5genie=206&school_id=4

Links for Resources (may have to copy and paste links)

Middle School Specific Site: <http://www.pellaschools.org/schools/middle-school/>

Middle School Handbook:

https://docs.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/document/d/1JuW6bmJiBZ9Mm9dhi-Xt_edIeW_AyeOL8LxE7sc2S4I/edit

Pella 1:1 Handbook:

https://docs.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/document/d/1QyO3_S4OmTFuauYwSz6IX15SsjYh68y-h9K8qZ6M5VM/edit

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

Pella Digital Learning Environment (DLE) Link: <http://pcsd-dle.blogspot.com/>

Dates to Remember for the 2014-2015 School Year

March 13	End 3rd Quarter/2nd Semester Midterms
March 16-20	Spring Break - rest and recharge for the final push!
March 30	3rd Quarter/2nd Semester Midterm Grades will be posted/public
April 1	7th Grade Field Trip - Neil Smith
April 2	7th Grade Field Trip - Neil Smith
April 3	NO Classes - Good Friday
April 18	8th Grade Party - 6:00-10:00
June 1	End of 4th Quarter/Final Student Day
June 2	Teacher Checkout/4th Quarter Grades Posted

As always, we appreciate your partnership with us in our journey to fulfill our mission of *Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child.*

Respectfully in Education,

Joshua A. Manning

Josh Manning
Principal, Pella Middle School

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