

PELLA MIDDLE SCHOOL, PELLA SCHOOLS

Fall (September/October) 2014 Newsletter

“Together”

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Hats off to the students at Pella Middle School! Despite having a building that is in disarray at times, we have had a tremendous start to our 2014-2015 school year. Your children *make* this building. I know people often comment about what a difficult age middle school students are in, but with those common struggles, your children bring joy, excitement, quirkiness, and so much fun to the building. We have such great kids here; hats off to parents, too!

Believe it or not, the first quarter is already over. Communicate and celebrate with your student about their first quarter accomplishments. Also, ask your student what he/she thinks of the new spaces. Our building project has moved into Phase four, and we will be moving to the fifth and final phase this week. Below, there are some pictures of a new classroom and our learning street.

● First Quarter Grades - First Semester Midterms

- First quarter ends today, and grades will be submitted and ready for your viewing by the end of the day on Wednesday, October 22nd.
- This also serves as your student's first semester midterm grade for all classes that are a semester or year long.

● Study Hall Options

- The middle school offers three optional study halls before, during, or after school. Encourage your students to take advantage of any of these study halls if they are needing to get work accomplished or receive some extra assistance.
 - 7:45 AM - Mr. Anderson's Room
 - After Lunch - Lunchroom
 - After School - Mr. Anderson's Room

● Coats for Kids

- If you would like to participate and help with the Pella Schools Coats For Kids drive, please bring new or gently used winter apparel to the middle school. These items will be free for families in need during elementary conferences at Jefferson Elementary. We are surprised at the number of items we have already received, and we thank you for your support. Brian Rundle, a high school senior, and Mr. Anderson are working hard to organize and prepare for this event.

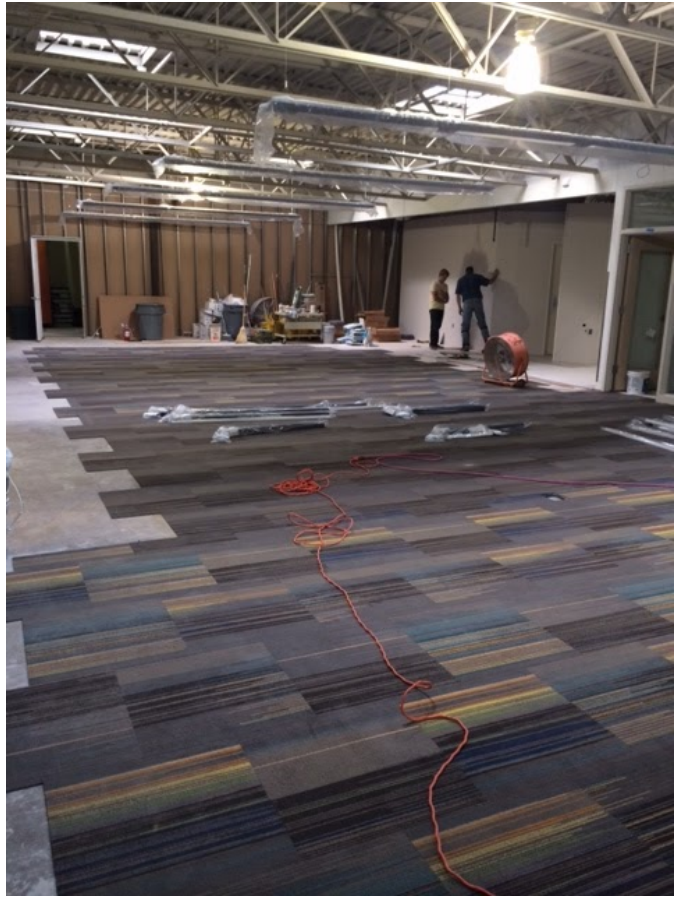
● Middle School Construction/Renovation Project Update

- Phase 3 Space - The Learning Street is ready (besides furniture)
 - Rooms that have recently moved:

- Mrs. Nikkel - 7th grade Language Arts
- Ms. Hillyer - 8th Grade Language Arts
- Mr. Korver - 8th Grade History
- Mrs. Schulz - 7th Grade History
- Mrs. Knight - 8th Grade Language Arts & Digital Media
- Mrs. Bogaard - Resource Interventionist
 - Mr. Mick - Resource Associate
 - Mrs. Harris - Resource Associate
- Phase 4 and 5 demolition has begun
 - Six classrooms and the Library will be demoed and renovated
- The project is slated to be completed sometime around January 2015. This is much sooner than our original July 15, 2015, completion date.

BEFORE & AFTER Photos







- **1:1 Laptops**
 - Remind your child to keep their device off of the floor, and also remind them to keep items off the keyboard when closing the lid. It will prevent a broken or cracked screen.
- **Pella Digital Learning Environment Link:** Jay Murphy, our grades 7-12 technology integrationist, and Ben Bollard, our IT director, have created this site/blog updated with 1:1 initiative concepts and methods of current integration and usage. Below the link are some other helpful tips from me you may continue to use and remind your student of: <http://pcsd-dle.blogspot.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_AyeOL8LxE7sc2S4/edit

Pella 1:1 Handbook:

https://docs.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/document/d/1QyO3_S4OmTFuauYwSz6IXl5SsjYh68y-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 2013-2014 School Year

October 17	End of First Quarter
October 22	First Quarter grades will be final and posted on Infinite Campus
October 22	90 minute early dismissal
October 28	90 minute early dismissal - K-6 Conferences
October 30	90 minute early dismissal - K-6 Conferences
October 31	No Classes
Nov. 10	Parent Teacher Conferences from 4:30-8:30

As always, we appreciate your partnership with us in our journey to fulfill our mission of *Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child*. Please contact us if you or your child needs anything.

Respectfully in Education,

Joshua A. Manning

Josh Manning
Principal, Pella Middle School

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