

PC Link

a monthly update for parents of PCHS students

November 2022

Happy Thanksgiving

Our school community has much to be thankful for. We can be thankful for opportunities that God provides for us to serve, the individual gifts God is developing in each of us, and the beauty in God's creation that we can enjoy through various school activities. We know that every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord (James 1:17) and that we are to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). In a season of thankfulness, let us also be thankful for the things that oftentimes go unnoticed, things like a teacher that sees a mistake as a chance to talk about God's redemptive power, a lesson that uses content to lead students to reflect on the impact of sin, and a coach that reminds the team that their identity is not in their performance. As we approach Thanksgiving, may we overflow with thankfulness (Colossians 2:7) as we give thanks and praise His name (1 Chronicles 29:13) for all our many blessings. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

In His Service,
Mr. Herdeggen

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thanks to all who attended our recent Parent-Teacher Conferences. Your involvement in the educational process is an important factor in the success of your student(s). If you were unable to attend the conferences but desire to communicate with the teachers, please do not hesitate to contact them via e-mail or by phone. Refer to the back of the school directory for this information.

Christmas Concert & Poinsettia Sales



The music department of the Pella Christian High School invites you to join them for an evening of music focused on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00pm in the PCHS Vermeer Auditorium. The concert will present the message of Christmas in word and song. Please join us for an evening filled with the musical joy recognized as part of the Christmas season.

As is tradition, the PCHS Music Department is selling poinsettias for this holiday season. Order forms are available from any PCHS band or choir student, in the school office and on the school website. Two colors are available (red and white) at a cost of \$13.50 per plant. Orders must be placed by Tuesday, November 22 and picked up on Tuesday, November 29, between 2:30-5:00pm in the music room at PCHS.

FAFSA and Financial Aid for College

Just a reminder to parents with college bound seniors, the FAFSA is now available online and is required in order to receive Federal financial aid. Parents are required to submit information from their 2021 tax year, so there is no need to wait for your 2022 tax information.

Parents and PC Supporters!

The Yearbook staff invites you to submit your photos of PCHS activities! Cell phone photos are acceptable! Send them to yearbook@pceagles.org OR go to the Yearbook tab under Student Life on the PCHS website and click on the link "Submit your cell phone photos to Yearbook here". Your help is appreciated!!

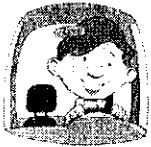
Weather Alerts Reminder

As winter approaches please be aware that there may be days that school is delayed or cancelled. Parents who live outside of the Pella city limits should always use their best judgment in determining whether or not it is safe for their son/daughter to drive to school. Students living in outlying school districts may always follow their local district's schedule. We encourage students to ride the bus as much as possible since this is the safest form of transportation to and from school. School delays and cancellations will be announced on local radio and TV stations. Pella Christian families are now automatically enrolled to receive text notification and no longer need to register to receive them.

Legacy of Grace Donations

The Legacy of Grace Student Tuition Organization (LOG STO) is once again actively seeking donations. A 75% state tax credit will be given on the first \$551,193 donated. Please check out the website at www.logsto.org for information and a donation form or go to the school website for a link. These monies help to assist families in their desire for a Christian education.

Drivers Ed Options



Street Smarts offers drivers education classes locally. Information concerning dates, time and location is available at streetSMARTSDRIVERS.ED.COM or by calling 515-279-1112.

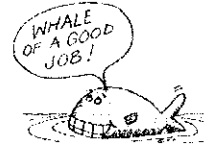
Training Wheels is a second local option for driver's education. For information on upcoming classes and fees call Cindy at 641-820-0234 or go to trainingwheelsdriverseducation@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving Office Hours

The PCHS office will be closed Wednesday, November 23, Thursday, November 24, Friday, November 25 and will reopen Monday, November 28 at 8:00 am.

Kudo's

...to the PCHS Marching Band who earned a 1 (Superior) rating at IHSMA state contest Saturday, October 15. This is a state ranking that was given



by six judges that were evaluating the band on music, marching, drumline, color guard, and visual presentation. Great job marching eagles!!

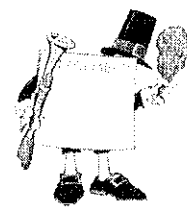
... to the boys and girls cross-country teams for advancing to the 2022 State Meet in Fort Dodge. The boys finished in 7th place. The girls finished in 10th place (first trip to the State Meet since 2008).

... to Kaden Van Wyngarden for his All-State performance at the Cross Country State Meet. He finished in 8th place with a time of 16:36.

...to the cast and crew of *Cinderella* for an outstanding job at all of their performances October 27-29.

...to the 22 blood donors (3 being first-time donors) who saved 66 lives by donating blood through LifeServe at the PCHS blood drive October 24.

UPCOMING EVENTS



November

- 22 8th Grade Visit Day
- 23-25 Thanksgiving Break
- 28 Board Meeting
- 30 2:30 Dismissal: Teacher PD
- 30 State Drill Team Wells Fargo

December

- 1-2 State Drill Team Competition at Wells Fargo
- 2 Middle School Basketball Night
- 7 2:30 Dismissal: Teacher PD
- 10 Christmas Banquet
- 13 Christmas Music Concert 7pm
- 14 2:30 Dismissal: Teacher PD
- 17 Drill Team Winter Showcase 4pm
- 20 Board Meeting 7pm
- 21 2:30 Dismissal: Exams
- 22 3:20 Dismissal Semester Exams
- 23-31 Christmas Break

January

- 1-2 Christmas Break
- 3-10 Winterim



Athletic Admission Prices

Admission prices for the 2022/23 basketball season are set by the Little Hawkeye Conference at \$5 for adults, high schoolers and students K-8. PCHS students get in free to home events. Family season passes are still available for purchase. They are now on sale for \$175 (30% off of the regular price of \$250). Please email Dan Branderhorst at branderhorstd@pceagles.org. Season passes support our athletic department and allow for free admission to all regular season home events during our winter, spring and summer seasons. Go Eagles!

October Board Briefs

The Pella Christian High School Board met in regular session on October 24, 2022. Chad Vink opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. The Board approved the names for board members serving on the Pella Christian Clay Shooting Club, an adjustment of timing for SI contracts, and the formation of a joint Mission/Vision Committee. The Board reviewed the Committee and Administrative Reports. The remainder of the board meeting was used to discuss further integration efforts. The Merger Issues Team is currently meeting to identify the key issues to be addressed prior to a formal merger of Pella Christian Grade School and Pella Christian High School, one of which was the current STO membership. The board discussed how a stronger, unified Pella Christian will better serve the mission and be more fully equipped to support other area Christian schools in fulfilling their mission. Mike Ver Meer closed the meeting in prayer.

Winter Sports Pocket Schedules



Pocket schedules will be arriving soon at Pella area businesses and in the school office. As always, you can also check for events on the school website at www.pceagles.org.

We Are Thankful...

- for the safety thus far for our kids and staff when traveling to school and school events. Please pray for continued protection as we enter the winter months.
- for a beautiful Fall Concert that show-cased the musical talent we have at PCHS!
- for a fabulous musical production and all of the gifts our students are blessed with. May they always be used to glorify our Creator.
- for successful fall sports seasons, protection while traveling to away games and dedicated coaching staff who challenge our student-athletes to be a light for Christ on the field, court and course.
- for our dedicated, caring, and gifted faculty and staff.
- for evidence of God's Spirit who is at work among all of us. God is faithful and good!
- for ALL of God's good gifts we celebrate at this time of Thanksgiving. We serve a faithful God!

Turbines and Trigonometry

Driving to Heartland Teacher's Convention in October, I couldn't help but notice how the wind turbines have increased exponentially since my years at Dordt in the early 2000s. The one turbine at the Stuart exit has multiplied to hundreds along Interstate 80 and Highway 20, depending on your route. But how many of you have put your math skills to the test, and tried to calculate how fast the windmill is turning? This is something my dad and I used to do on road trips. As a lifetime farmer, he had quick mental math skills, and could calculate things using larger than average numbers. To figure out the speed at the end of the turbine arm, all you need to know is the length of one of the arms. But wait - that isn't all - you also need to find the circumference of the path of the arm, the time it takes to make it one time around, and all the conversions to get that value into miles per hour. Your phone can be a great resource, especially for timing one revolution. Moving from my dad to my son who, as a 3 year old, would often comment that he wished he could connect a string to the end of a turbine arm and fly around and around - wouldn't that be fun?! However, with some calculations, we determined that close to 200 mph was a VERY SCARY speed. This is an example we look at in precalculus, when learning about applications of trigonometry. What a blessing to have wonder as a small child, curiosity as we grow, and an amazing God who has created it all.

-Kristin Dyk

Integration Briefing - November, 2022

This month's PC Integration briefing will highlight some of the shared resources and collaboration in place between Pella Christian High School, Pella Christian Grade School, and the surrounding sister schools.

Academics: Pella Christian High School and Grade School currently share five teaching staff, including band, choir, art, math, and history. This allows for more efficient use of specialized staffing and streamlined content preK-12. Our Director of Learning also organizes professional development in coordination with sister schools, is the liaison for area Christian schools to the Heartland Conference, and facilitates the Vermeer Charitable Foundation Workshop and Scholarship.

Athletics: Middle school athletics at Pella Christian are open to all sister schools. We welcome that participation! This fall we had volleyball players from Sully and Peoria Christian as well as football players from Sully, Peoria, and Oskaloosa Christian. Pella Christian's Director of Activities takes the lead in finding coaches, scheduling events, and organizing the top-notch programming available to all area schools and students.

Music: Our South Central Iowa Christian Band is the pride of Tulip time, encompassing students from all the sister schools and sounding fantastic! Pella Christian Grade School takes the lead in planning the Fall Music Festival each year, as well as hosting Fine Arts Night. In October, Pella Christian High School invited all of the sister schools for their matinee performance of *Cinderella*.

Mission and Vision: Administrators from schools in the area meet once a month for principals club to discuss day-to-day operational issues, plan group events between the schools, and work together to promote the cause of Christian Education in South Central Iowa.

Conclusion: Pella Christian High School and Grade school's integrated structure has resulted in more streamlined operations and greater leadership capacity, allowing it to better serve families and meet its mission. These efficiencies and structure also allow Pella Christian to provide opportunities for other schools in the area, furthering the cause of Christian education.



¡Somos Bilingües! (We're bilingual!)

Pella Christian High School's Junior Spanish Immersion class began their first semester of dual enrollment remotely, at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. These college level Spanish courses were created specifically for students who are in Spanish immersion programs across the country. Therefore, PCHS students are getting the opportunity to study alongside their peers at Holland Christian and others, while earning credits toward a minor in Spanish!
-Lilly Lehr, Spanish Immersion Point Person



Mission Statement

"Pella Christian High School educates and nurtures each student to serve in God's world."

Drop Box

There is a locked drop box located on the outside wall next to the main entrance of the school (next to the keypad used for entrance). If you have envelope sized items to leave at school after school hours please use the black drop box.



1. What is the philosophy behind school choice?

School choice puts parents in the driver's seat of their children's education by giving families access to their taxpayer funded education dollars. Empowered with financial means, families can use those dollars to access the education provider that best meets the needs of their children. All parents deserve choice, not just those with financial means. With school choice, taxpayer funding follows the child. School choice applies to all educational options: Christian schools (tax credit scholarships, education savings accounts), homeschooling, and public schools (charter schools, open enrollment). 34 states have school choice programs. Polling indicates 72% of voters nationwide support school choice (<https://www.federationforchildren.org/new-poll-72-support-for-school-choice/>) and 77% of

current Iowa school parents support a universal Education Savings Account

(https://www.iowaace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/IowaACE_OnePager_K-12_School_Choice_Polling11.pdf).

2. What is an Education Savings Account (ESA)? How would one benefit me and my child(ren)?

ESAs give parents the power to use some of their child's education tax dollars on approved education expenses like tuition, tutoring, educational supports, and more. Families receive funds in an account and use that money to customize an education to fit their child's needs. 9 states currently have ESAs, and Iowa may make number 10.

3. Won't an ESA take money away from the public school? Where does the funding come from?

Funding for an ESA comes from taxpayer dollars – dollars paid by you as a taxpayer living in Iowa. School choice advocates believe that funding should follow the child, supporting students and not systems. Some may say that "public dollars support public services". But where do public dollars come from? The taxpayer. Taxpayer funding already supports various programs in Iowa, such as the GI Bill, WIC, SNAP, the Iowa Tuition Grant (for colleges), and preschool funding. The only level of education in Iowa not supported by taxpayer funding that does not have to be fundraised (STOs) is K-12 education. It's important to understand the public-school funding formula. On average, Iowa total spending per student in public schools is \$14,320. About 47% of this funding comes from federal funding and local property taxes (about \$6,700 per student). That money – paid partly by parents choosing to send their children to Christian schools – stays with the public school in an ESA program. Funding used for an ESA is state taxpayer funding (about \$7,600 per student in Iowa), which would be directed to parents to use how they choose for the education of their children. (<https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/state/iowa/> - click on Fast Facts)



4. Will accepting ESA funding cause Pella Christian Schools to compromise its values?

Pella Christian is working closely to partner with legislators, lobbyists, and advocates to ensure that an ESA bill does not cause us to compromise our values. Pella Christian will never accept funding that compromises its values. With an ESA, the funding is directed to the parent, who then chooses where those dollars go. Funding does not come directly to the school. Pella Christian has already accepted taxpayer credit dollars (STO), Title services, and other funding for decades without needing to compromise our values.

5. What if the ESA is provided and then goes away?

The likelihood of an ESA being provided and taken away is low. Across the country, no school choice program that has been implemented and had students enroll in it has ever been repealed by a state legislature. For several decades in Iowa, Pella Christian parents have benefited from STO funding, nonpublic textbook services, bus reimbursements, and more. Once a program begins and students benefit, parents become supporters and advocates. Lawmakers keep these programs because they benefit the common good.

For more information and to ask questions, contact Dan Zylstra, Head of Schools, at zylstrad@pceagles.org.

2022

Legacy of Grace

2022

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

726 North "E" Street • Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 • www.logsto.org

Individual Donation Form

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Social Security Number _____

(We are unable to distribute tax credits without name, address, and social security number)

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Check here if you would like your acknowledgement receipt emailed to you.
Be sure to include your email address above.

Grain Transfer

Use Only

I, _____ transfer _____ bushels
of corn or beans to Legacy of Grace STO on ____/____/2022.

X _____ Date ____/____/2022
Producer

X _____
Business Representative

Representative of _____.

Please make checks payable to **LOG-STO**

Please send to: Legacy of Grace STO
726 North E Street
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Office Use Only

Date of Donation _____
Check No. _____
Amount _____
CACTAS Date _____