



THE PC LINK

A MONTHLY UPDATE FOR PARENTS OF
PCHS STUDENTS

Looking back on the 1st Semester

Pella Christian High School was truly blessed during the 1st Semester. 277 students continue being equipped to serve in God's world through academic coursework, co-curriculars, and service work. Our Winterim activities are another example of where we meet our mission head on, placing students in internships locally and service trips throughout the western hemisphere.

Giving Update: We want to thank constituents for their faithful giving in 2023. Year-end contributions were particularly strong, and we are well on our way to meeting our fundraising goals this year, allowing us to make Christian Education accessible to more families.

Proposed Merger: Pella Christian continues to look for stewardship opportunities to deliver sustainable, high-quality Christian Education that is accessible to mission-aligned families. Working alongside the Pella Christian Grade School Board, we've identified significant short-term and long-term savings and efficiencies which can be captured through a merger of the two schools into a single district with two campuses. We have scheduled a society vote on February 27, 2024 and desire your support. Information is available at www.pceagles.org/merger.

Our theme this year is "Rooted" in God's Word based on Psalm 1:3. Continue to pray for our staff and students as we work to build strong roots individually and institutionally which will last for generations to come.
-Dan Zylstra, Head of Schools

January 2024

A New Year's Resolution

I have never been one to make a New Year's resolution. I have nothing against those who pledge to improve an area of their lives. Resolutions that encourage us to put off our old selves and put on our new selves (Ephesians 4:22, 24) are things we should all desire. Perhaps I don't like making a resolution because I don't know what resolution to make or I know it will be a distant memory come February. Maybe I avoid making a resolution because it will add something to my to-do list and be one more thing to fit into a busy schedule. This makes me think I should make a resolution to do less and rest, rest in God's presence (Exodus 33:14). Regardless of the resolution you make (or don't make) this year, may you find time to be still and know that He is God (Psalm 46:10) and to allow your soul to find rest in God (Psalm 62:1).

In His Service,
Mr. Herdegen

Fall Alumni Drive Thank You

The Pella Christian High School Board is grateful for the donations received for the annual Fall Alumni Drive and thank all who supported this fundraising effort. Over \$80,000 was raised to support the school's mission, another example of God's faithful provision and the gracious giving of our constituency.

Homecoming Week at Pella Christian High School is set for January 22-26.



Each day that week the students will be wearing attire appropriate for that day's theme. At 12:30pm on Friday, January 26, the afternoon activities begin with a chapel followed by competitions in the gymnasium that will conclude with the presentation of the homecoming court. The public is invited to the afternoon activities. The boys and girls basketball teams will be hosting Grand View Christian that evening. The JV girls game will start at 4:45pm followed by the varsity girls at 6:15pm and the varsity boys game to follow at 7:45pm. JV boys (4:45pm) and 9th grade boys (6:00pm) will also compete at the Pella Christian GRADE School Eagle Gym.

PCHS Preview & Planning Night

All 8th graders planning to attend Pella Christian High School for the 2024/2025 school year are invited to attend the 8th grade and parent Planning and Preview Night on **Tuesday, January 16 from 6:00-8:00pm at Pella Christian High School.**

The evening will begin with a PC Academic Roadmap to learn more about class offerings and sign up for classes and end with a Taste of PC to explore the programs and activities that are of interest to you and your child. Your attendance is highly encouraged. Student attendees will receive a Welcome to PCHS swag gift for attending. Learn more at: <https://www.pceagles.org/blog/8th-parent-planning-preview-night/>.

KUDOS

Congratulations to Reagan De Vries for being selected for and participating in the SCIBA Honor Band Saturday, January 6!

City-Wide Speech Night

This year, the annual All-City Speech night for the Pella community will be held at Pella Community High School. The event, featuring the speech teams of both Pella Christian HS and Pella Community HS, will be held Thursday evening January 25 at 7:00pm. Performance events from both schools include One-Act Play, Readers Theatre, Musical Theatre, Short Film, Ensemble Acting, Radio Broadcasting, and Improv. Both schools will be performing all of their events at IHSSA on Saturdays, but this event is simply a night for both schools to showcase their pieces to each other. The public is invited and there will be a free-will donation for both schools' speech programs. Among the events Pella Christian students will perform include a One-Act in *Ordinary People*, Readers Theatre in *Pullman Car Hiawatha*, Musical Theatre in *Catch Me If You Can*, *Little Women*, and *Hairspray*, Ensemble Acting in *The Ashgirl* and *Christmas in Concord*, and a student written and produced film and Radio Broadcast. The PCHS speech students are coached by Elizabeth Bos, Marlo Van Peurse, and Karla Hodgell.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 11 1st Day of 2nd Semester
- 15 MLK Day-No School
- 16 Preview and Planning night for 8th graders
- 17 2:30 Dismissal-PL
- 20 District Large Group Speech
- 22-26 Homecoming Week
- 22 4 Year planning night for 9-10th grade parents
- 24 2:30 Dismissal-PL
- 25 All City Speech Festival (Pella HS)
- 26 Service Day/Homecoming
- 31 2:30 Dismissal-PL

February

- 3 State Large Group Speech (Pleasant Valley)
- 5 LHC Instrumental Fest (DCG)
- 7 2:30 Dismissal-PL
- 14 2:30 Dismissal-PL
- 16 No School-Teacher PL
- 17 All State Large Group Speech (ISU)
- 19 Presidents Day-No School



A Special Meeting of the Pella Christian High School and Pella Christian Grade School Societies will take place on **February 27, 2024** to vote on a Motion to merge the Pella Christian Grade School and Pella Christian High School Societies into one legal entity. No presentation will be given that night. Information about the proposal, voting ballots, and upcoming presentations can be obtained at either school office or found on the school's website at www.pceagles.org/merger/.



From the Athletic Department:

Brian Smith, Christian author and speaker, helps athletes and parents integrate faith and sport. The following is taken from his article, "Four Shifts Needed in Youth Sports." Each month we will highlight one of the "shifts" he talks about in his article. His blog can be found at thechristianathlete.com/blog.

2) From Gossiping to Generous

Kids listen to how we talk about their teammates. Their opinions about how good/bad their teammates are come from listening to how WE talk about them. "Johnny will get better from that moment" > "Johnny was awful today." Our kids pick up on this.

Let's lead well!

Take Flight! *Kingdom Impact – Servant Leadership – Excellence – Joy!*

December 2023 Board Briefs On December 18, 2023 the Pella Christian High School Board and Pella Christian Grade School Board met in a Joint Session. Brad Meinders opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Both boards discussed the details of the proposed merger along with other issues relevant to both campuses. After discussion, the Grade School and High School boards separately approved motions to bring the merger proposal to a Society vote. Both boards then scheduled and approved a Special Meeting of their respective Societies on February 27, 2024 to consider approving the merger proposal. They then articulated plans for Society Presentations of the proposed merger and absentee voting procedures. These plans will be shared in the coming weeks.

After the Joint Meeting, the Pella Christian High School Board met in regular session. The board approved the minutes of the November 27, 2023 meeting and the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar. They also discussed appropriate staffing levels for 2024-2025 in light of a large incoming freshman class and low numbers in the International Student Program partially due to larger world developments. Committee reports were received. The board approved the Finance Committee's 2024-2025 proposed budget, including tuition and salary increases. Of note, first year teacher salary at Pella Christian High School will be over \$41,500 for 2024-2025. The board also approved concrete repair in the east parking lot for the summer of 2024. Administrator reports were received. There being no further business, Doug Uitermarkt closed the meeting with prayer.

Service/Homecoming Activities



Friday, January 26 will be a day dedicated to service projects and our annual homecoming activities. Both of these are intended to provide students with the opportunity to serve one another and build community in a collaborative manner. Lunch will be served at PCHS. Our annual homecoming chapel will begin at 12:30 with homecoming activities beginning in the gym around 1:00. **Parents are welcome to attend our homecoming chapel and activities.**

PC Clay Target Team 2024 Sign-up and Safety Meetings

The 2024 sign-up and safety meetings for the PC Clay Target team are scheduled for Thursday, January 18 from 6pm- 8pm and Saturday, January 20 from 8:30am-10:30am in the auditorium at PCHS. Students from 4th grade through 12th grade may compete on the team. To be eligible to participate on the team for the 2024 season, you and one parent or guardian **must attend** one of these meetings. Also, please print and fill out all the forms found under the Forms section of the PC Clay Target team website (pcclaytarget.com) and bring them along with you to the meeting along with a form of payment (preferably a check). If you have any questions, please contact Greg Stravers at 641-780-2068.

Biblical Learning Targets

How do you determine what to teach? This is an important question for each and every school to answer. We could follow it up with “when do you teach it?” and “how do you teach it?” Our desire at Pella Christian is to develop learning opportunities for students to equip them with the capacity to serve in God’s world. This requires us to think not only about the academic context of learning but also how God’s call in our lives is tied directly to those elements.

Our teachers have explored each unit of instruction, either by reimagining the units that have been taught or developing new units under the lens of defining what is *really* important in this learning. The teachers are articulating Long Term Learning Targets with the idea that naming the clear connection between the academic content and God’s beautifully woven story builds a deeper connection with our students to how the content of the classroom impacts Kingdom work. Like much of our professional learning, this work has led us to celebrations and revealed some opportunities to grow as we seek to build classrooms that invite, nurture, and empower students into beautiful work.

Here are just a few of the unit targets arising from the work of our faculty:

- I can appreciate the accomplishments of people from different places in the world and know that all people have been made in God’s image.
- I can humbly and graciously interact with other believers as I seek the truth about God and his creation as revealed in Scripture and nature as I plan and conduct an interview about science questions related to faith.
- Students will apply what objective truth is, understanding its source to create a response for Christ in our world.
- recognizing that stories are a gift from God which offer insight into the human experience and provide opportunities for personal growth and spiritual reflection.
- I can discern how it can be used to understand God’s ordered creation by applying basic geometric definitions, properties, notations, formulas, and angle relationships to real world situations to solve problems and bring order to wherever God has called me to serve Him.

Blessings-Craig Juffer, Director of Learning

Be An Explorer In Social Studies

Students in my classes are living out my storyline, *Be An Explorer*. They are collaboratively engaged in using problem solving, and critical thinking, to study God's world. Government students had a project in which they had to create a new Constitutional amendment. They pitched and defended their amendment to a panel of government experts from the community. This is what two seniors who participated in the project said about their experiences.
-Mr. Turnley, PCHS Social Studies

“I thoroughly enjoyed this project. In school, we don't typically get projects like this. I'm glad that my partner and I chose the Electoral College because it is something that we learned about and debated this semester and I found myself passionate about changing it. At first, my partner and I were nervous to present, especially to Senator Ken Rozenboom, but being able to present to people who were educated in the government challenged us to think deeply about our proposed amendment.”

-Carly Huyser

“Learning about and constructing a 28th amendment proposal to our constitution in government class was not only informative, it was fun too! Getting to research a topic I was passionate about, create a thoughtful presentation, and share it with a board of professionals helped me gain confidence in my political opinions and my ability to present. I'm very thankful to have had this opportunity before graduating high school so I can be prepared to have difficult, yet effective conversations with those around me and create change for the better.”

-Abby Dart



