



THE PC LINK

A MONTHLY UPDATE FOR PARENTS OF
PCHS STUDENTS

April 2024

HELP US SOAR



PC GIVING DAY 04.25.24

Join us on Thursday, April 25 for our **Help Us Soar - PC Giving Day 2024**. Through our social media channels and the Pella Christian website, you will have the opportunity to get an inside peek at what happens at Pella Christian Schools. We want Pella Christian to continue to educate and nurture students for a life of service in God's Kingdom and to do so, we need your help! **Please consider giving to Pella Christian Schools to help us meet the goal of raising \$150,000 during our Help Us Soar – PC Giving Day!**

Show your support by donating online at www.pceagles.org/helpussoar or by sending in your gift via mail by April 25, 2024 to 300 Eagle Lane, Pella IA 50219. Donations can be designated for Pella Christian High School, Pella Christian Grade School or simply Pella Christian Schools and it will be divided between both campuses.



Education Savings Accounts - Their Second Year

In January of 2023 Governor Reynolds signed Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) into law. In the program's first year 368 K-12 Pella Christian students qualified for \$7,635 toward Christian school tuition - a huge blessing for many of our families! We are now approaching the program's second year of implementation, where it expands to include more families.

I often am asked the question, "What happens if ESAs go away?" While only the Lord knows the answer to this question, I believe ESAs are on firm footing. Here's why. The political winds are blowing in favor of school choice currently. Other states, such as Arkansas, Utah, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas already have or are in the process of following in Iowa's footsteps. Politicians are winning elections on the school choice issue, and the courts clearly side in favor of parental power over their children's education, including the state dollars that pay for it. No state has reversed an ESA or voucher-type program once implemented. The longer the program stays in place, the more constituents benefit from it, and the more difficult it is to remove. Thus, I feel confident the program is on solid footing.

In the end, only the Lord knows what the future holds for ESAs. We believe that His Kingdom will prevail, and we believe covenantal Christian education is a part of that plan. ESAs are part of that plan right now at Pella Christian. Whether they remain so is in His hands. We are called to move forward with faith, prayer, and trust in His ultimate provision.

Graduation

The 84th Annual Commencement Exercises will take place on Saturday, May 18, beginning at 7:00pm in the PCHS gymnasium.

PCHS Marching Band

The PCHS band will be marching at the following Tulip Time parades this year: Thursday Evening, Friday Afternoon, and Saturday Evening.

Tulip Time Schedule

School will dismiss at 11:20am on both Tulip Time days. We will have a White schedule on Thursday, May 2, with periods 1 & 3 and Friday, May 3 with periods 5 & 7. Parents may excuse students to work at church, community, or local businesses for these two mornings. Please fill out this [FORM](#) and submit to the office by **Friday, April 26**

Spring Choir Concert

The annual Spring Choir Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 8, at 7:00pm in the PCHS Vermeer Auditorium. This concert will feature a variety of solo, small and large group performances of popular music.

PCHS Society Meeting Tuesday, April 23, 2024

The Pella Christian High School Annual Society Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 23, at 6:00pm in the PCHS Band Room. A school report plus ratification of the 2024/25 school budget will be on the agenda along with a presentation of the 2024-2025 School Board, which was approved by Society Vote as part of the merger process. Information about incoming board members is available at www.pceagles.org/board-members/ or at the high school office. A short Endowment Foundation Meeting is scheduled to immediately follow.

PCHS Seniors and Parents!

A 'Senior Countdown' letter was mailed April 1 to every senior and their parents. The letter contains many important details concerning your student's final weeks at PCHS including Awards Night, graduation rehearsal and commencement ceremony details. Also included was a yellow form for ordering professional photos of graduation. Orders are due to the office by **Friday, May 10** with payment. PLEASE NOTE: times listed for seniors to arrive for graduation photos on May 18 in the music room are: 6:00pm for last names A-R and 6:15 for last names S-Z.

Volunteer at the Eagle Booster Tulip Time Booth

The Pella Christian High School Eagle Boosters will have a booth at Tulip Time again this year. This fundraiser is one of our largest, but we can't do it without you! We need over 100 adult volunteers to help make it possible. We also have a limited number of student volunteer spots available. Can you or someone in your family help? Click here to see a list of available shifts and sign up today: [Tulip Time Sign Up](#). Hours worked are applied to PCHS Service Hours. You can also access the volunteer sign-up by visiting the PC Eagles website. Select Support from the home page, then service, then PCHS Eagle Boosters. Thank you for supporting PCHS and Go Eagles!

Visit the Eagle Booster Booth at Tulip Time

Are you visiting Tulip Time this year? Be sure to stop by the Pella Christian High School concession stand located at East First and Franklin (in front of Breadeaux Pizza). We'll be serving Dutch spiced beef, Pella bologna, cotton candy, snow cones, an assortment of drinks, and back by popular demand, the "Dutch Stack" sandwich (Dutch spiced beef, Pella bologna, and Gouda cheese). All proceeds support PC academics and our athletic, theater and music programs. We promise to satisfy your appetite and thirst while you support PCHS.

Chamber Choir

The PCHS Chamber Choir will be singing with vocalists from Pella High at the Tulip Time worship service on Sunday, May 5.

Band Pops Concert

The annual instrumental Pops Concert will be held on Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00pm in the gymnasium. You will need to reserve a table in advance by clicking [HERE](#) or calling 628-4440 or you may sit on the bleachers with no reservation. **Reservation deadline is Friday, May 10, at 9:00am.** This year's Pops Concert theme will be *Dreamland*, which will include musical selections such as "Highlights from La La Land," "Pure Imagination," "A Million Dreams," and more. This is a great event for multiple generations and the whole family. Free popcorn and ice cream sundaes served!!

Financial Aid Applications – April 30 Deadline!

Families requesting financial aid may now do so using FACTS Financial Management, which is accessible through the FACTS Family Portal or through this link. Families who apply and fall below 400% of the federal poverty level will automatically be eligible for STO funding and Tuition Assistance at both Pella Christian Grade School and Pella Christian High School. There is no cost for the family to apply. Applications are due April 30, 2023.

First Days of School 2024/2025

All new students (freshman and transfers) will begin with a half day of school Friday, August 23, with a Noon dismissal. The entire student body will have a full day of classes Monday, August 26.

NON-PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

REIMBURSEMENT - If your children ride a bus either to or from school, even on a part-time basis, or you live within the Pella Community School District, please ignore this. Only families that provide their own transportation TO AND FROM SCHOOL are eligible to apply for this. Families need to apply for BOTH semesters and the deadlines are Dec. 1 for the first semester and May 1 for the second semester. You must file directly to your home school district's business office. Reimbursements will be distributed at the start of NEXT school year. So, to reiterate, you may only apply if:

1. You provide 100% of your transportation to and from school.
2. You live outside of the Pella Community School District (if you live within PCSD, you can NOT apply, even if you take your kids to school).

Follow the directions on the form for how many students you may claim for. Pella Christian Schools will apply on behalf of those children that ride the bus and any other families that choose not to apply on their own. **Please email Chris Fynaardt, Transportation Director, at fynaardtc@pceagles.org if you apply, as this will ensure the public school does not get an application from both the family and Pella Christian!**

Lastly, families from the Lynnville-Sully Community School District should have received an email last week with instructions for their non-public transportation reimbursement. **DO NOT** send anything in to Lynnville-Sully.

....Kudo's

...Kudos to all of the PCHS students who were part of our Individual Speech Team this year. Our team competed at Districts in Montezuma and at the State contest at Xavier High School on March 9th. Out of the fifteen events that advanced to State, thirteen of them received Division I ratings, and two events received Division II ratings.

...The following students received Performing All State Nominations and participated in the All State Festival at the University of Northern Iowa on March 25th:

...Mia Andringa: Storytelling

...Abby Dart: Solo Acting & Solo Musical Theater

...Cassidy Bos: Interpretive Poetry

.....Kudos to the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams.

...Tysen De Vries - 1st Team All-Conference; 3rd Team All-State

...Dane Geetings - 1st Team All-Conference

...Josiah Vos - 2nd Team All-Conference

...Caleb Van Arendonk - Honorable Mention All-Conference

...Isaiah Breems - Honorable Mention All-Conference

...Rachel Kacmarynski - 1st Team All-Conference

...Faith Kacmarynski - 2nd Team All-Conference

...Karis Fikkert - Honorable Mention All-Conference

...Chloe Snyder - Honorable Mention All-Conference

.....Kudos to

...The 25 Cast Members and the 14 Tech Leaders for a great job in the Spring Play, *To Kill a Mockingbird!*

Local Drivers Ed Options

Street Smarts offers drivers education classes locally. Information concerning dates, times and locations is available at 515-279-1112 or on their website at <https://streetsmartsdriversed.com>.

Training Wheels also offers driver's ed classes locally. Contact Cindy Hauschildt at 641-820-0234 or email trainingwheelsdrivereducation@gmail.com for class information details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

10 LHC Art Festival

10 2:30 Dismissal-Teacher PL

12 Dordt Band Festival

13 FFA Banquet-6pm-Federated Church

16 LHC Math Contest

17 2:30 Dismissal-Teacher PL

18 A Grand Day!

19 JSB-Jr and Sr. dismissed after 4th period.

22 Celebration! Theatre Awards Night

Banquet 7pm

22-26 Iowa Statewide Assessment

23 Society Meeting-6pm-PCHS band room

24 2:30 Dismissal - Teacher PL

25 'Help us Soar' Giving Day

30 Tuition Assistance Application Deadline!

May

1 2:30 Dismissal - Teacher PL

2-3 11:20am Dismissal - Tulip Time

5 Chamber Choir at Tulip Time

Worship Service

8 2:30 Dismissal - Teacher PL

8 Spring Choir Concert 7:00pm

14 Band Pops Concert 7:00pm

15 2:30 Dismissal - Teacher PL

15 Senior Awards Night 7:00pm

16 Seniors Last Day

17 Commencement Rehearsal 9:00am

18 Commencement 7:00pm

28 Exams - **Full Day of Classes**

29 Exams- **1:30 Dismissal**

Summer Camps

Please take note of the following dates for camps at PCHS this summer. All camp registration forms are available by clicking [HERE](#)

Girls Soccer Camp

(3rd-8th): June 10-13 from 9:00-11:00 am

Boys Basketball Camp

(3rd-4th): June 10-13 from 8:00-10:00 am

(5th-6th): June 10-13 from 10:00 am-12:30 pm

(7th-8th): June 10-13 from 1:30-4:00 pm

Boys and Girls Tennis Camp

(3rd-8th): June 17-20 from 9:00-11:00 am

(9th-12th): June 17-20 from 11:15 am-1:15 pm

Girls Basketball Camp

(4th-6th): July 1-3 from 8:15-10:00 am

(7th-9th): July 1-3 from 10:15 am-Noon

Boys Soccer Camp

(4th-9th): June 17-20 from 6:00-8:00 pm

Girls Volleyball Camp

(4th-6th): July 8-10: 8:00-10:00

(7th-8th): July 8-10: 10:30-12:30

Football Camp

(1st-3rd): August 24 from 9:00-11:00 am

(4th-6th): August 19-22 from 9:00-11:00 am

(7th-8th): August 19-22 from 6:30-8:30 pm

(9th-12th): August 5-8 from 6:00-9:00 pm

July 28-August 4: Non-Contact Period

August 12: Fall Sports Practice Begins

PCHS April Board Briefs

On Monday, March 25 the Pella Christian High School Board met in regular session. Chad Vink opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. The board approved the hiring of English Teacher Bekah Gorkow and HS Softball Coach Mindi Kacmarynski. The board approved a special resolution to ratify and executive the Articles of Merger based on the results of the Society Vote. They also discussed other aspects of the merged entity. Committees and administrator reports were received. The board approved updated attendance policy changes and secondary credit for courses prior to ninth grade. There being no further business, Cassia Boender closed the meeting with prayer.

Spiritual Renewal Day:

On Tuesday March 19 the student body of PC experienced our annual Spiritual Renewal Day. We were able to invite a group from Dordt University to lead and inspire us. Campus Pastor Sam Ashmore and a group of 10 students lead us in a greater understanding of Matthew 11:28-30. Dordt brought their traveling worship team to lead us in songs tied to the message from Matthew. Three sessions: Come to Jesus, Learn from Jesus, and Rest in Jesus helped us to feel the love we receive as sons and daughters of Christ. Students and staff had a great day in learning, praise, and worship. Many thanks goes to Dordt University for their willingness to pour into Pella Christian High.

Bible classes in Spanish

Our Spanish Immersion (SI) program focuses on providing students with opportunities to produce language while learning content subjects completely in Spanish.

This semester I am teaching Christian Doctrine to Sophomores and Juniors, and I have found that the nature of Bible classes offers good ways to immerse students in the target language. Students engage in doctrinal discussions and they are exposed to literary vocabulary and syntax through the direct study of the Bible.



Also, during lessons, students have opportunities to present the topics to practice speaking skills at an advanced level. Another aspect that is vital in the Spanish immersion program is cultural learning. It is clear that biblical themes can provide significant learning from many traditions in different cultures.

In conclusion, I believe that integrating biblical studies into the language curriculum is a good way to create a dynamic learning environment that enhances students' linguistic proficiency, cultural competence, and critical thinking skills.

Blessings, Lorenzo Escalante.

Commissioned Choral Work

This year, the Concert Choir had the wonderful opportunity of having a choral work, *Water and Flame*, commissioned specifically for our Winter Concert on February 22. This was a several month process that started back in September when we officially commissioned Pella native, Kaylin Vos to write our choral work. Kaylin is currently studying choral conducting at Western Illinois University while also composing music for various groups. This was her first commissioned work with a high school choral ensemble.

The Concert Choir initiated the compositional process by selecting the text for the piece. Students were asked to get into small groups and present text that could be used in a choral setting. Ultimately, the students voted on text from the book of Isaiah:

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” - Isaiah 43:2 - ESV

On the day of the concert, Kaylin attended our choir rehearsal, where she heard the first performance of this work and provided feedback. Students also had the opportunity to ask her questions about the work itself. Miss Vos was also in attendance for the evening concert and shared her thought-process in the creation of this piece.

Aaron Fitzgerald, Choir Director

ESA Application Information

The ESA application will open April 16, 2024. Applications will be due on June 30, 2024, for the 2024-2025 school year. Applications are valid for one year.

FAMILIES MUST APPLY ANNUALLY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM. You can go to the parent portal on the PC website and click the Odyssey (ESA) Login.

The number being used to determine qualification for ESAs will be line 4 (Iowa Taxable Income) on the 2023 Iowa 1040 form. Note that the form has changed significantly from previous years, so please check with your tax professional for planning purposes. If you did not anticipate qualifying until year 3, please check with your tax professional to make sure and to discuss any year-end tax planning that you may be able to do.

ESA's are available based on the following eligibility for the 2024-25 School Year:

- All kindergarten students, regardless of income
- All public school or homeschool students who transfer to a private school, regardless of income
- All private school students with a household income at or below 400% of federal poverty level
- All students who have previously received an ESA, regardless of income

2025-26 School Year:

- All K-12 students in Iowa (regardless of income, grade or transfer status)



Thank you for supporting the PC Eagle Boosters

The Pella Christian Eagle Boosters Club would like to shout out a note of thanks and gratitude to our supporters! We could not be a support system to the high school without your continued contributions in so many ways! When you make purchases at our concessions during any home sports events or various other activities, you are championing our cause in reaching monetary goals which financially support both academic needs of our teachers and athletic essentials for our teams and coaches. The results of your support over this past year have allowed us to make donations to the high school teachers and coaches in excess of \$55,000 -- items above and beyond traditional budgeting.

We were very excited to be a partner in replacing the team chairs as well as basketball rims for our basketball teams -- items that had come to a point of required repair. We could assist many of our teams with improved or replacement items such as practice equipment, tennis nets, soccer balls, and ball carts, batting cage nets, and tumbling mats, just to name a few. In our classrooms, purchases were made for science GPS systems, sewing machines, replacement cameras for journalism, and funding to create improved study areas for our students.

Support is also a valued commodity for all those of you who volunteer for our events by serving in the concessions so that we can successfully serve food to our customers at these numerous events. We are about to begin spring and summer sporting events as well as much planning which has already gone into our upcoming Tulip Time food concessions. We hope to see many of you there -- supporting us on either side of the serving window!.