

November 2023

Serving in God's World

We desire all PCHS students to make kingdom service a lifetime habit which is why service hours are a part of our graduation requirements and why we dedicate days of school to allow our students to participate in servious activities. We believe it is important to provide opportunities for our students to serve, encourage students to take ownership for where they serve, and support students to explore other service activities. May our students also experience areas where God is already at work (John 5:17), the importance of looking to the interests of others (Phillippians 2:4), being a servant (Matthew 23:11), glorifying God through their good deeds (Matthew 5:16), and encouraging and building one another up (1 Thessalonians 5:11). I encourage you to ask our students about their service opportunities. May each of us make service a lifetime habit.

In His Service,
Mr. Herdegen

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 child(ren). 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 12, 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 \$15 per plant. Orders must be placed and paid for by Monday, November 20 and picked up on Tuesday, November 28, between 2:30-5:00pm in the music room at PCHS. Orders will not be placed until payment is received.

FAFSA and Financial Aid for College

Just a reminder to parents with college bound seniors, the FAFSA will be available online sometime in December. This is required in order to receive Federal Financial Aid. Parents are required to submit information from their 2022 tax year, so there is no need to wait for your 2023 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.

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 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.



The PC Eagles football program would like to thank all who came out to support us at our pancake breakfast. Special thanks to Bonnie for her assistance in the kitchen and Doug Van Wyk for set up and

clean up.

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 \$552,935 donated. Please check out the website at www.logsto.org for information. The donation form is attached to this LINK. These monies help to assist families in their desire for a Christian education.

Drivers Ed Options

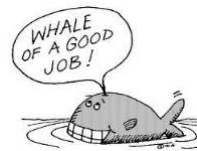


Street Smarts offers drivers education classes locally. Information concerning dates, time and location is available at streetsmartsdriversed.com or by calling 515-279-1112.

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.

Kudo's

... to the PC Boy's Cross Country team for advancing to the Class 2A State Meet for the third straight year.



... to Bailey Vos, Jaclyn Holmes, Sawyer Meinders, Tysen De Vries and Deacon Branderhorst for Top 15 finishes to qualify as Individuals for the Class 2A State Cross Country Meet.

... to Chloe Huisman, Annika Van Dyke and Ema Zula for Little Hawkeye Conference Volleyball recognition.

... to Caleb Van Arendonk, Benny Schirz, Isaiah Breems, Trevor Veenstra, Connor Van Zee, Cooper Spronk, Brecken Ritzert, Keagan Fopma, John Boender, Landon Fransman, Garrett Wielard, Trae Van Maanen, Noah Nunnikhoven and Kaden Kruid for All-District Football recognition.

... to the cast and crew of *Mary Poppins* for an outstanding job at all of their performances October 26-28.

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.

Thanksgiving Office Hours

The PCHS office will be closed Wednesday, November 22, Thursday November 23 and Friday, November 24 and will reopen Monday, November 27 at 8:00am.

Mission Statement

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

Senior SOAR Day

On Monday, October 2, 2023, 59 Pella Christian High School seniors gathered at the PCHS fieldhouse for some breakfast pizza, orange juice and devotions before embarking on a day long retreat to East Iowa Bible Camp near Deep River. The goal of this special outing was to build a strong sense of community as seniors began their final year together at PCHS. They were able to enjoy a day of bonding together during the bus ride by playing games and engaging in conversation. Seniors were able to spend the day doing activities at the camp and enjoying God's creation. Some of the activity options during the day included miniature golf, kayaks, paddleboards, basketball, Octo-ball, zip line, giant swing, and volleyball. The day was one that students were able to create unforgettable experiences that will become stories that will be told for years to come, solidifying connections with their peers.

UPCOMING EVENTS



November

15 2:30 Dismissal: Teacher PD
21 8th Grade Visit Day
22-24 Thanksgiving Break
29 2:30 Dismissal: Teacher PD

29-Dec. 1 State Dance Competition @ Wells Fargo

December

6 2:30 Dismissal: Teacher PD
9 Christmas Banquet 5:30pm
12 Christmas Music Concert 7pm
13 2:30 Dismissal: Teacher PD
20 2:30 Dismissal: Teacher PD
21 Last Day of First Semester
22-31 Christmas Break

January

1-2 Christmas Break
3-10 Winterim



Athletic Admission Prices

Admission prices for the 2023/24 basketball season are set by the Little Hawkeye Conference at \$5 for adults, high schoolers and students K-8. 10 and 20 punch cards are available for home athletic events. These cards represent a 25% savings from paying at the door and can be used at any regular season home athletic event and do not expire. They make excellent Christmas gifts. Cards are sold in the school office and at all home events. Adult 10-punch cards are \$38 or \$75 for 20 punch cards.



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.

October Board Briefs

On October 23, 2023 the Pella Christian High School Board met in regular session. President Matt Vander Linden opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. The board discussed enrollment levels for 2024-2025, including timelines for registration, projections for 2024-2025 numbers, and the effects enrollment may have on staffing levels, particularly for freshman and sophomore required classes. The board also was presented with different ideas on how to adjust learning spaces within the building based on projected numbers and staffing both now and into the future. B & G will attend to the needed repairs on the Pella Christian High School parade float hydraulics. Further information about the proposed merger was discussed in preparation for the planned society vote on February 27, 2024. There being no further business, Layton De Groot closed the meeting with prayer.

Spanish Immersion at PCHS

This school year in the SI Program we are very happy to have our first generation graduating from High School.

¡Felicidades Clase de Español 2024!

Watching our students grow and seeing them develop their second language is something that fills us with optimism and makes us proud of them and their families who, throughout these 12 years, have been part of the history of the Spanish Immersion Program.

Did you know that...

In today's rapidly globalizing world, the importance of life skills cannot be overstated. Two fundamental classes that have been offered have garnered significant attention to nurturing healthy relationships and emotional intelligence. These are two pillars that support personal growth, professional success, and overall well-being. This is what the students in Life Skill class are learning

Also in an increasingly interconnected world, the importance of Bilingualism in the Workplace cannot be forgotten. This valuable skill transcends borders, fosters inclusivity, enhances communication, and unlocks a wealth of opportunities for both employees and organizations. Our students have been able to transcend that just being bilingual to comprehend the differences between cultures, and attitudes toward work based on the cultural background. With the idea of fostering a culture of innovation already having the opportunity to interview Jose Carballo, a testament to the power of bilingualism, he embodies the competitive edge that this skill bestows upon individuals and organizations. With proficiency in both English and Spanish, Jose has demonstrated an ability to bridge linguistic and cultural gaps, facilitating smoother operations in international contexts. We are also going to interview Mr. Wang and learn more about his experience as a Bilingual worker at Vermeer Corporation.

The 10th-grade students have been exploring the rich world of Hispanic Poetry, immersing in the verses of talented authors. Through thoughtful discussions and critical analysis, they studied the cultural, social, and historical contexts of the Hispanic writers, and, additionally, they crafted a comparative essay in which they contrasted the past experiences of

(Continued)

characters with their improved present, using their second language to narrate such descriptions.

In parallel, 9th-grade students have been examining the impact of technology on our lives. Together, we navigate digital innovations, exploring the ways in which technology shapes our perceptions, interactions, and identities. As part of their Spanish practice, Freshmen are currently in the creative process of crafting descriptive essays centered around their favorite tech tools.

New Testament and Computer Science lessons have also been opportunities for Spanish Immersion students to learn through their second language. Studying the Bible in Spanish has been an opportunity to learn that Jesus is the true King and only one Savior for humankind. Likewise, studying how the internet and computers work has been a good way for students to learn technical vocabulary.

-Lucy Prado-Spanish Immersion Point Person



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!

Integration Briefing: When and How Do We Merge?

We've covered the schools' histories, the changes over the last 50 years leading to this proposal, and how the proposed merger improves governance, operations, efficiency, and long-term sustainability. What's next? How do the schools officially merge?

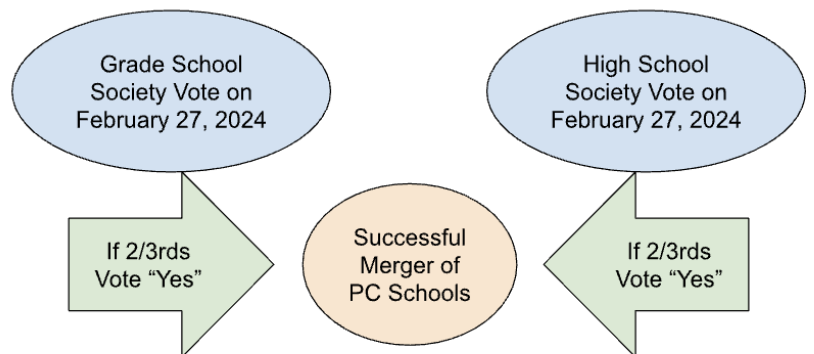
Two Societies Become One

In order to combine two separate legal entities, both parties have to say "I do." In this case, those two parties are *The Pella Christian Grade School Society* and *The Pella Christian High School Society*.

What's the Society? The society is the collective group of individuals who are PC parents, financial supporters, and members of churches that financially support each school. Our [May Integration Briefing](#) explained this in more detail.

Society Votes on February 27, 2024

The boards have scheduled both society votes concurrently on February 27, 2024. Some of you are society members at Pella Christian Grade School and will vote there. Some of you are society members at Pella Christian High School and will vote there. Many of you are society members at both schools and will need to vote two times, once in each place for each society you are part of.



To merge the schools, a 2/3rds majority of each society will need to vote "yes," as pictured above.

Stay tuned for further procedural details as we approach the final phase of the Merger process. We've been working with an attorney experienced in non-profit mergers to ensure the legal details are in order. We're refining the proposal based on feedback ahead of approving a finalized plan of merger and bylaws for the unified school.

We've held numerous discussion sessions and board visits with area K-8 Christian school communities. There is still time to provide input through this survey link (<http://tiny.cc/s8f8vz>) or this QR code. Send questions to pcintegration@pceagles.org or contact either school at 641-628-4440 or 641-628-2414.



Dan Zylstra, Head of Schools
Pella Christian Schools

Education Savings Accounts and Pella Christian: The First Year

In 2023 Iowa lawmakers passed legislation providing increased educational choice to families in the state of Iowa. Here's a refresher on how Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) work and an update on how they've affected Pella Christian in their first year!

What Do ESAs Mean for Non-public Schools? In their first year ESAs provided \$7,635 in state funding to qualifying students attending non-public schools, which includes Pella Christian. Those that qualified included families below 300% of the poverty level, all kindergarteners, and students who had *not* attended a non-public school the previous year (including those who attended a public school or were homeschooled).

What Do ESAs Mean for Public Schools? ESAs also provided an additional \$1,205 in funding to public schools for every ESA recipient residing in their district, regardless of where they attended the previous year. This was to help defray potential revenue losses from students switching to a non-public school. It's noteworthy that public schools have always lost or gained students through out-of-district transfers, called open enrollment (another form of school choice), but the state does not provide additional funding when districts gain or lose students through open enrollment.

Summary of ESA Results

368 = The number of students who qualified for ESAs at Pella Christian in grades K-12. The majority of those students attended Pella Christian last year and had incomes below 300% of the poverty level.

\$443,440 = The amount of additional funding local area public schools received this year for ESA students attending Pella Christian.

How Did Things Work Out This Year? The increases in interest and enrollment at Pella Christian show that parents desire choice in their children's education. 368 students qualified for ESAs at Pella Christian K-12. This was a larger number than anticipated! It demonstrates how many families have been making significant financial investment to afford Christian education. ESAs have been a huge blessing to these families. Local public schools also received an astonishing \$443,440 in additional funding for students that attend Pella Christian with an ESA.

What's Next? Next year more families will qualify for an ESA as the income qualification increases to 400% of the poverty level. All students who have previously received an ESA will again qualify. Please reach out to your local lawmakers, thank them for their work for educational choice, and support them in continuing this program. Most importantly, give thanks to the Lord, the giver of all good things. ESAs have been a huge blessing for Christian education.

2023

Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

2023

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 ____/____/2023.	
X _____	Date ____/____/2023
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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	_____
Process Date	_____

