

Open House



Tuesday, August 21, 2018 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Kindergarten - 8th grade parents and students are invited to stop by school! Open House is a great time to:

- tour the new building
- meet your teacher(s)
- see the classrooms
- visit with classmates
- bring in your school supplies

The school supply list is found in the back of the purple PCGS handbook.

First Day of School



Thursday, August 23, school begins for all students in grades K through 8 at 8:30 a.m. and dismisses at 12:05 p.m. Please note: Kindergarten students will attend school on Thursday, August 23. Kindergartners will then attend on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for the first grading period. Lunch will not be served, but bus service will be provided.

When a dismissal time is stated (i.e. 12:05), Kindergarten through 3rd grade dismiss at 12:00 p.m. and grades 6-8 dismiss at 12:05 p.m. Buses depart no earlier than four minutes after final dismissal time (example 12:09 p.m.)

First Day Chapel

Please join PCGS as we kick off the school year at Chapel on Thursday, August 23, at 8:45 a.m. in the gym. Mr. Te Grotenhuis will introduce new teachers and staff, we will be led in praise and worship and hear Pastor Brad Bierma as helps us keep our "spotlight" on what really matters!

Technology Meeting

A parent meeting to review the 1:1 Device Program will be held on August 21 at the Open House beginning at 6:45 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend to learn more about the program and to complete the forms for participation. This meeting is geared toward parents that are new to the 1:1 program (fourth grade and new students in grades 5-8). Families who have already attended a meeting or have participated in the program are still welcome to attend.

Signed forms are required for the participation in this program. They can be picked-up in the office during business hours, printed from the website, or completed at the Open House. Those who have completed forms at registration or have them on file from previous years do not need to resubmit them. Please contact Craig Juffer, Head of Teaching and Learning, at jufferc@pellachristian.net with any questions.

Your word is lamp to my feet and a light for my path. – Psalm 119:105

Tu palabra es una lámpara a mis pies; es una luz en mi sendero. – Salmos 119:105

Tax Savings-529 Plan to Pay Tuition

Did you know that you can now pay your child's tuition out of a 529 College Savings Plan and receive an adjustment on your Iowa taxes? Depending on your income level, PCGS families could see a tax savings of 5% to 10% of the cost of tuition.

The PCGS Finance Committee will be hosting informational meetings regarding changes to the state of Iowa tax code on Iowa 529 plan giving during the August 21st open house and sharing how these plans should be set up to take full advantage of the adjustment on your Iowa taxes. Parents can choose one of the five thirty minute meetings. Meetings will be in the band/choir classroom. The first meeting will begin at 5:00 and each subsequent session will start on the half hour, with the final meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. Families can set up a 529 plan themselves, and financial planners will also be available to answer questions about options that can be accessed by your financial advisor. We strongly encourage all of our families to have a representative at this informational meeting if you are able and interested in taking advantage of this benefit.

Student Safety

With the completion of the parking lots around school, here are some ways we can partner to help ensure the safety of students during drop off and pickup times. We appreciate any feedback you provide and will continue to evaluate how we can improve traffic flow during these busy times of the day.

Here are some ways to help with student drop off and pick up:

1. Parents dropping off or picking up their child(ren) are asked to use Liberty Street. Pella Christian busses will be loading and unloading students onto the sidewalks along the parking lot off of Hazel Street. Our desire is that car and bus traffic be separated during these times.
2. All parents are asked to comply with the requests of the school personnel to ensure safety and an orderly environment during pick up and drop off times.
3. Please stop at one of the three designated unloading areas in front of school preferably the one furthest away from the unloading zone entry. This allows vehicles behind you to unload as well.
4. Do not leave your vehicle unattended in the unloading zone.
5. Do not get out of your vehicle to assist unloading students. On most days, staff will be available to assist with unloading students if necessary.
6. All students should exit the vehicle on the right side onto the sidewalk.
7. Honor the "no parking" ordinance on Liberty Street. Parents are asked to not stop along Liberty Street to let their child out and instead use the drop off/pick up lanes.
8. Vehicles utilizing the unloading zone should exit Pella Christian via the alley.
9. Parents wanting to park and walk their child into the building are asked to use the sidewalks and crosswalks once they've parked their vehicle.

Parent Handbook

In our continuous effort to update and improve our PCGS Parent Handbook, we would like to announce a few highlights. The purple 2018/19 Pella Christian Grade School Parent Handbook includes a list of our new staff and board members, peanut/tree nut safe policy, anti-harassment policy, a suspension and expulsion policy, school closing information, homework policy, middle school eligibility policy and a daily schedule.

The parent handbook is also available under the "Parent" tab on the school website at www.pellachristian.net. Please keep this handbook for reference throughout the school year.

School Publications



The Directory will be distributed at the end of September. The Newsletter is distributed twice a month on Wednesdays. The FOCUS is published once a month.

Prayer Event

A back-to-school prayer event will be held at PCGS on Sunday, August 19 hosted by Third Reformed Church. Parents and children are welcome to come to the school anytime from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fall Athletics

The Fall sports season will be starting soon. We are excited to announce our coaches for the year. Mr. Joe Flahtery will be coaching 7th and 8th grade football this season. Miss Courtney Van Wyk will be coaching cross-country. Mrs. Lori Eekhoff will be coaching 7th grade Volleyball this year. We are still looking for an 8th grade Volleyball coach. Watch for announcements with more information about a parent meeting and practice times. All fall athletic schedules are available at pellachristian.net and how to contact Jake Fancher, athletic director.

Tuition Statements



August tuition statements have been sent out. Most parents receive these statements electronically. If you signed up for ACH at registration, your August tuition payment will be deducted from your account on August 15. Please contact finance@pellachristian.net if you have any questions.

T.R.I.P. Updates

Please update your account information to reflect your child's homeroom and locker number, if your child is bringing home your T.R.I.P. order.

Food Service Program

The food service staff for the 2018-19 school year consists of Jean De Vries, Shari Fox, Kristi Kamerick and Marilyn Vander Molen as cooks, Lori Clark and Kim Hoekstra as cashiers, Teresa Res as dishwasher and Taunya Van Maanen as food service director.

Remember the lunch program has family accounts, so any amount of money may be deposited to your family's account at any time. Emails are sent from JMC when a family's balance is low.

August 23

First Day of School
12:05 dismissal
No lunch
23 de agosto
Primer día de clases
Salida a las 12:05 – no hay comida

August 24

Deli Meat Sandwich, Tomato&Cheese Slices, Baked Beans, Baby Carrots, Baked Chips, Diced Pears, Pineapple, Carnival Cookie, Milk
24 de agosto
Sándwich de jamón, rebanadas de tomate y queso, frijoles/porotos orneados, zanahorias, sabritas orneadas, peras, piña, galleta, y leche

August 27

Mr.Rib/WG Bun, French Fries, Baby Carrots, Diced Pears, Apples, Milk
27 de agosto
Sándwich de costilla, papás a la francesa, zanahorias, peras, manzanas, leche

August 28

Cheese Quesadilla, Bell Pepper Strips, Steamed Broccoli, Cheese Sauce, Diced Pears, Orange Choc. Pudding, Milk
28 de agosto
Quesadilla, rebanadas de chile morón/locote, brócoli al vapor, salsa de queso, peras, naranjas, pudín de chocolate, leche

August 29

Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cucumbers, Pears, Mandarin Oranges, Chocolate Pudding, Milk
29 de agosto
Pequeños nugets de pollo, puré de papas, rebanadas de pepino, peras, mandarinas, pudín de chocolate, leche

August 30

Hotdog/Chilidog, Sweet Potato Fries, Cucumber slices, Baked Beans, Diced Pears, Diced Peaches, Milk
30 de agosto
Salchicha con o sin frijoles/porotos, camotes a la francesa, rebanadas de pepino, frijoles/porotos orneados, peras, duraznos, leche

August 31

Chicken Wrap, Diced Tomatoes, Lettuce, Shredded Cheese, Corn, Diced Pears, Pineapple, Milk
31 de agosto
Pollo envuelto en tortilla suave, tomates picados, lechuga, queso rayado, elote/choclo, peras, piña, leche

* Menu subject to change without notice. Students are required to take at least 3 items to make a complete meal, one must be a fruit or veggie. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. El menú está sujeto a cambio sin previo aviso. Recuerde: Se tiene que tomar 3 alimentos para que cuente como una comida completa, uno tiene que ser una fruta o verdura. Esta institución es una proveedora de igualdad de oportunidades.

August / September

August

13 & 14 Teaching for Transformation training
15 New Teacher Orientation
16 Full Staff Orientation
20 Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
21 Open House 5:30-7 :00 p.m.
23 First day for K- 8th grade, 12:05 dismissal
23 All school chapel at 8:40 a.m.
29 2:35 p.m. dismissal, professional learning

September

3 Labor Day, No School
7 Fall Fundraiser, Pella Sports Complex
12 2:35 p.m. dismissal, professional learning