

April 2016 News for Pellston Elementary School

From Mrs. Tami Pichla, Pellston Elementary Principal (231) 539-8421

Full Value Agreement: Work as a Team, Be Safe-Physically & Emotionally, Speak Up (inquiry with a positive intent)



IMPORTANT: M-STEP Testing Begins April 13!
It will begin promptly at 8:30 am on each scheduled day!

Grades 3-5 M-STEP Testing Schedule

Date	Grade/Testing Activity
April 13	5 th Grade Math
April 14	5 th Grade Math
April 19	5 th Grade ELA
April 20	5 th Grade ELA
April 21	5 th Grade Social Studies
April 27	3 rd Grade ELA
May 3	3 rd Grade Math
May 4	3 rd Grade ELA
May 10	4 th Grade ELA
May 12	4 th Grade Science
May 17	4 th Grade Math
May 18	4 th Grade Math

What M-STEP Tests will Students Take?

Grade	Content Assessed
3 rd Grade	Math, English Language Arts (ELA)
4 th Grade	ELA, Math, Science
5 th Grade	ELA, Math, Social Studies

Did You Know?

Research shows that students who skip breakfast have shorter attention spans and don't do as well on tests. Make sure your children get up in time to have a nutritious breakfast either at home or at school. It is also very important that all students are on time to school on testing days!



M-STEP Testing April 13-May 18!

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will administer for the second year the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). Like last year, the M-STEP will be given online and will measure current student knowledge on Michigan's standards in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies.

The M-STEP is a 21st century test, meaning it has fewer multiple choice questions and more questions requiring problem solving and critical thinking skills. This year, the ELA and mathematics components will be computer adaptive tests (CAT). A CAT delivers a more individualized test experience for students. It also provides a more precise measurement of student learning.

Like last year's test, the 2016 M-STEP will feature other modern testing methods and components including:

- Technology Enhanced (TE) items: On the online tests, some items will ask students to drag and drop, select text in a passage, select spots on a graphic, match between two lists, fill in the blank, or select multiple answers to a test question.
- Constructed Response (CR) items: Students will be asked to produce a grade appropriate written response to some test questions to demonstrate a clearer understanding of the content standard being assessed.
- Performance Task (PT) component: For mathematics (grades 3-8) and ELA (grades 5 & 8) students will experience a theme-based test component that asks them to answer more than one question related to a source, or several source (s)/document (s). PTs are specifically designed to assess students' depth of content knowledge.

Tips for Helping Children Feel and Do Their Best During Testing

- ☑ Get a good night's sleep
- ☑ Eat a healthy breakfast
- ☑ Listen carefully to directions
- ☑ Check over answers
- ☑ Be on time to school
- ☑ When feeling anxious, take slow, deep breaths
- ☑ Don't rush. Read questions carefully
- ☑ Relax and do your personal best

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Important Dates to Remember

March 31	End of Third Marking Period
April 1-11	No School-Spring Break
April 12	School Resumes
April 15	Reading Month/PBS Assembly
April 13-May 18	M-STEP Testing
April 16	Crooked Tree K-12 Art Show
April 26	Kindergarten Round-Up
May 6	PBS Assembly
May 7	Mother/Daughter Make & Take
May 11	Opera House Show
May 13	PTO Carnival
May 14	Mom-to-Mom Sale
May 23	2 nd & 3 rd Grade Track & Field Day
May 24	4 th & 5 th Grade Track & Field Day
May 27	No School-Professional Development
May 30	No School-Memorial Day

Congratulations Bryan Searles!

Bryan completed our Parent Survey and was our \$25 Gas Card Winner!



Crooked Tree K-12 Art Show

Opening Celebration:

Saturday April 16th 2-4 pm

Student work will be on display until May 7th!

The art show features the creative works of students from around our area including several displays from Pellston students in grades K-12!



ATTENTION: FIELD TRIP VOLLUNTEERS

Class field trips will happen very soon. All volunteers and chaperones will need to complete a Disclosure of Criminal History and the Michigan Department of Human Services forms so an on-line criminal background check can be completed. **This process MUST take place every school year.** If you are considering being a chaperone for a field trip, please complete the forms prior to the end of April!

Little Hornets Preschool News

WANTED: 3 & 4 Year Olds!

If you have a child, 3-4 years of age, please call Little Hornets Preschool! We are currently recruiting preschoolers for the 2016-2017 school year. Our preschool slots fill up very quickly so please call 539-8421 today!

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Pellston Elementary School welcomes all incoming Kindergarten age children and their parents to our action-packed Kindergarten Round-Up scheduled for April 26th at the Pellston Elementary School! Incoming Kindergarten children and their parents will meet the staff, learn about our programs, enjoy treats, and receive a special welcome gift!



Please call 231-539-8421, ext. 220 to schedule an appointment today!

Pellston Elementary School's

Spring MOM-TO-MOM Sale



Saturday, May 14, 2016

9:00 am -1:00 pm

Pellston Elementary School Gym

\$2.00 Admission



Seller Information

\$10.00 per space – bring your own table

\$20.00 per space – includes large table

Set Up: Friday, May 13th 3-6 pm or Saturday, May 14th 7-9 am

For more information contact Emily Matelski at

ematelski@pellstonschools.org or Ashley Vieau at avieau@pellstonschools.org

K-3 Class Placement Policy

If parents have special circumstances that need to be addressed when considering class placement for the upcoming school year, please submit a written request to the elementary office no later than May 20, 2016. The request should include:

- The reason for your request
- A description of your child's individual needs
- Identification of a specific problem that would interfere with the child's ability to learn or the teacher's ability to teach
- Other special circumstances that require a special placement for the student

Our goal is for each classroom to have a balanced learning environment. We try to establish classroom diversity through a balance of learning styles, gender, ability and special circumstances.