

Back-to-School News for Pellston Elementary School



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

August 2015

Pellston Schools: Where EVERYONE is fully valued!



Tuesday, September 8, 2015 is the first day of school and is a **HALF DAY** of school. School will begin at 8:15 A.M. and will be released at 12:35 P.M. **Lunch will be served.**

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer season and took time to enjoy special moments with family and friends! Even though summer is winding down, it is exciting to think about the sights and sounds of fall in northern Michigan. Nights get cool and crisp, leaves turn brilliant shades of color and learning is in the air! I am thrilled to know our school team is back together and beginning a fresh new year of discovery, learning, growth, and development!

Each year at Pellston Elementary School we strive to reach our vision of... creating a learning environment in which all learners, children and adults, grow and succeed. We are committed to partnering with families to identify ways to help every child develop the foundational skills needed for work, active citizenship and lifelong learning in the twenty-first century.

As we continue our focus on the principles of the Full Value Agreement (work as a team, be safe and speak up), we need all members of our elementary school team to be present and always striving to do their best work. Our commitment to success for all students begins with an emphasis on attendance and being on time for school. If students are present and prepared for school, they feel more confident and can be contributing members of the team. Let's challenge ourselves to have an AWESOME year of attendance, teamwork, and learning!

I welcome everyone to a new school year at Pellston Elementary School! The 2015-2016 school year will be a GREAT year to be a Pellston Hornet!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tami Pichla

Pellston Elementary Principal

PTO Picnic and Open House

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

5:30-7:30pm

We look forward to meeting all families at the Picnic and Open House!

Attendance and Being on Time for School Matters!

School Hours: 8:15 AM-3:10 PM

Did you know that if a student is 10 minutes late to school every day, the instructional time missed is equal to missing over 4 days of school or 29 hours of instruction in a school year?

Breakfast and Lunch Pricing 2015-2016

Breakfast Prices:	Full Pay: \$ 1.00
	Reduced: \$.30
Lunch Prices:	Full Pay: \$ 2.50
	Reduced: \$.40
Milk only:	\$.50

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH

Free and Reduced Lunch forms must be completed for each Kindergarten student prior to the start of school. Kindergarten children are charged for lunch beginning on the first day of school, unless forms have been completed by eligible families. Returning 1st-5th grade eligible students have approximately two weeks to complete forms for the 2015-2016 school year before charges begin to accrue.

Forms are being sent home and will also be available at the Open House on September 1. We encourage ALL families to complete the forms and reapply (if not eligible) whenever income changes!

Pellston Elementary LOVES Volunteers!

If you have extra time in your schedule, love children and would like to help out at school, we have volunteer opportunities for you! Volunteer packets are available in the elementary office. All volunteers must complete new forms and a security clearance EACH school year. Teachers will begin assigning volunteers to activities once approval is granted from the office and all paperwork is complete!

Little Hornet Preschool News

Little Hornets Preschool offers a free preschool for qualifying 3 and 4 year old children! Call TODAY for more information. Little Hornets Preschool's direct numbers: 231-539-8421, ext. 222 or 231-333-3714

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Preschool and Elementary Teachers 2015-2016

Preschool:	Mrs. Lisa Stempky Mrs. Chelsea Copenhaver
Kindergarten:	Mrs. Emily Matelski Mrs. Ashley Vieau
First Grade:	Mrs. Laura Balinski Mrs. Amy Thompson
Second Grade:	Miss Shari Saddison Miss Sarah Klebba
Third Grade:	Mrs. Kim Wagenschutz Mrs. Karen Welch
Fourth /Fifth Grade Team:	Mrs. Emily Wolford <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Science, Social Studies</i> Mrs. Sandy deCastro <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Math, Problem-Solving</i> Mrs. Barbara Ingraham <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Reading, Language Arts</i>
Special Education:	Mrs. Carrie Tennant
Title I Reading:	Mrs. Karen Smith
Title I Math/Computers:	Mrs. Dianne Wolford
Physical Education:	Mrs. Mary Weitzel-Bailey
Art Education:	Mrs. Erika Faust
Social Health Education:	Mr. Mark Wagenschutz

Security Changes/Reminders

- All K-5 students/parents are required to enter the building through the main lobby equipped with a buzzer entrance system. Other exterior doors will not be opened by staff or students.
- Security gates in the building will remain closed until 8:05 AM.
- At the end of the school day, K-2 students will walk to buses with their teacher through the main lobby and grades 3-5 students will exit with their teacher through the south end entrance near the kitchen.
- The school has designated areas for parents to wait for student pick-up. As parents check-in at the office they will be directed where to wait.
- An upgraded video surveillance system was installed this summer allowing additional cameras throughout the building.
- No parking is allowed in the north-end circle driveway or in front of the school during drop-off or pick-up times.

Parent's Right to Withhold Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1983 require school districts to inform parents or eligible students (one who has attained the age of 18 years) of their rights under the Act. The complete notice and additional information is included in the parent/student handbook distributed to all students the first week of school.

The parents of a student or eligible student may refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the categories of Directory Information, if so desired, by giving written notice of such desire to the Office of the Superintendent indicating as to which information is not to be designated as Directory Information and therefore not eligible for release. Such written notice must be received by the Office of the Superintendent on or before September 15th of the current school year.

The Directory Information listings represent no change from Pellston Schools' long-standing procedures for the release of such student information. The administration and the staff of Pellston Public Schools continue to assure the privacy of every student's records is protected in accordance with the foregoing statutes and that all information not under the category of Directory Information is released only with the consent of the parent, guardian, eligible student, or under certain limited circumstances as permitted by law.

4th/5th Grade Schedule

We have implemented a unique team approach to scheduling 4th and 5th grade this year. All 4th and 5th grade students will be predominantly with their same-age peers and will rotate between the three designated classroom teachers throughout the day. Students will be in smaller classes for math, reading, language arts and specials and larger classes for science and social studies. Students will have a 56 minute special each day.

Anti-Bullying, Anti-Cyber-Bullying Policy

The Board of Education has updated the anti-bullying policies for the district. These policies are outlined in the parent/student handbook which will be sent home with students the first week of school.