

The Buzz!

Pellston Public Schools

SEPTEMBER 2024

Home of the Hornets



From the Superintendent

Pellston Public Schools families,

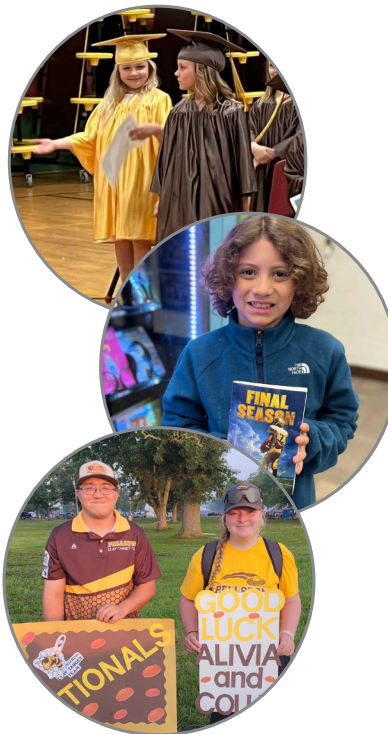
I'm thrilled to see summer coming to a close and having the opportunity to welcome our students back to the classrooms. I hope you had an amazing summer and that you were able to make lasting memories with your family.

This school year will mark my 25th year in public education, with the last 14 of them spent as an administrator. I truly love my job and the ability to work daily with our students, parents and staff. My wife, Michelle, is also starting her 25th year as an elementary special education teacher. Our oldest daughter, Aurora, graduated from Michigan State University and is working for a nonprofit organization in Lansing. Our youngest daughters, Annabelle and Ella, are both in college following in their parent's footsteps to both become educators.

It was a busy summer in the school district. We welcome an incredible group of new staff members that will make an immediate impact with our students. We are set to have another incredible year and we look forward to continuing our strong partnership with our amazing community.

With kind regards,

Stephen Seelye • sseelye@pellstonschools.org
Superintendent, Pellston Public Schools



#HORNETSWORK

District Calendar 2024-25

2024

- Sept 2** Labor Day
- Sept 3** First day of school
- Oct 10** Half-day, parent teacher conf.
- Nov 1** No school, ISD-wide PD Day
- Nov 27-29** Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 23-Jan 3** Winter Break

2025

- Jan 24** Half day, end of 1st semester
- Feb 14-17** No school, mid-winter break
- Mar 6** Half day, parent teacher conf.
- Mar 7** No school, PD Day
- Mar 21-Mar 31** Spring Break
- Apr 18** No school, Good Friday
- May 23** No school, ISD-wide PD Day
- May 26** No school, Memorial Day
- June 11** Last day, half day

Important Pellston Public Schools Contacts

Superintendent:	(231) 539-8421, ext. 10001
Middle/High School:	(231) 539-8801
Elementary School:	(231) 539-8421
Transportation:	(231) 539-8801, ext. 10080
Athletic Director:	(231) 539-8801, ext. 10029

Find all district staff contact information on our website: www.pellstonschools.org

INSIDE:

- Meet our new staff!
- Messages from our school principals
- New online Hornet store!
- Career tech courses
- PARENT SQUARE
- Athletic info



The Buzz!

Messages from the Middle/High & Elementary



Greetings, Middle/High Hornets!

I hope you all had a wonderful Summer Break! This summer break was much needed, and it feels wonderful saying that my batteries have been recharged. I am beyond excited to have students return to our Middle/High School to start the 2024-25 school year. I spent the summer balancing my

time between preparing for the school year and spending time with my family, and enjoying the beaches and campgrounds that make Northern Michigan so special.

I also spent several days attending school safety training, including the Michigan State Police Office of School Safety Academy. It was encouraging to know we have a great deal of best practices already in place at Pellston; be on the lookout for communication

regarding changes in some minor areas regarding school safety. I also could not be more excited to welcome our new teaching staff on board. We are so fortunate to add Mrs. Dodd, Mrs. Vieau, and Mr. Swiderek to our team, and I cannot wait to see the amazing impact these wonderful educators will have on our students.

Finally, I want to once again reiterate how seriously I take this role, and how much I value being a part of shaping the youth of this community. I look forward to a wonderful school year, and I am truly grateful for this opportunity to serve you and this community as a whole

Sincerely,

Mr. Chris Schlappi, cschlappi@pellstonschools.org
Middle/High School Principal



Greetings Hornets!

I hope that you have all had a fun and relaxing summer! I know that I am not alone when I say that we cannot wait to see your faces back in the building! I am delighted to say that this is my 10th school year as the Pellston Middle/High School Counselor! I am humbled and honored to serve the Pellston

community in this role and I hope to continue working with you and your students in the years to come.

For students and parents new to Pellston Middle/High School, my name is Jennifer Dilworth and I am the middle/high school counselor. My role includes a variety of tasks like scheduling students, keeping track of students' graduation requirements, and supporting our students with their post-secondary plans including applying for college, financial aid, and scholarships. My role also includes being the 504 coordinator and testing coordinator for the middle/high school, as well as supporting students and families who are in transition and/or experiencing homelessness. In addition, I support students in crisis on an as-needed basis and I assist

students experiencing issues with friendships, stress, anxiety, and whatever else comes up.

I would like to highlight our **Pellston Schools Trauma Project** which is a partnership with Pediatrician and Adolescent Behavior Specialist, Dr. Mark Sloane. Our goal is to support our most at-risk students who are having difficulty at home or at school who have experienced some form of trauma in their lives. To date this program has evaluated and helped nearly 50 Pellston students district wide. We plan to continue this program into the 2024-25 school year. If your child is experiencing difficulty at home or at school, feel free to reach out to your building principal to see if your student is a good candidate to see Dr. Sloane.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions! Enjoy the last few days of summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Dilworth ■ jdilworth@pellstonschools.org
Middle/High School Counselor



Welcome Back, Hornets!

Our hallways will soon be filled with hardworking Hornets! It is with great pleasure and excitement I welcome you and your children to a new school year at Pellston Elementary. As we embark on this new journey together, I am extremely honored to have the privilege to work in partnership with

each of you and your children. Pellston Elementary School is committed to providing a learning environment with rich experiences and interventions to support the social,

intellectual, emotional, and physical development of each and every student. I firmly believe that schools of excellence emerge as a result of the collaboration efforts of staff, students, parents, and community. I thank you in advance for sharing your children with me and I look forward to spending the school year growing and learning together.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tammy VanAntwerp ■ tvantwerp@pellstonschools.org
Elementary School Principal

SCHOOL DAY HOURS:

Middle/high

Full day - 8:10 a.m.-3:10 p.m.
Half day - 8:10-11:30 a.m.

Elementary

Full day - 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Half day - 8:00-11:20 a.m.

Welcoming new staff to the Nest!

www.pellstonschools.org



BREE BOROWICZ-HORN, 1st Grade Special Education Interventionist

I'm Bree Borowicz-Horn. My husband and I have been together for 8 wonderful years. Together, we have three handsome boys. I'm a lover of all animals, especially chickens. I also am proactive in our neurodiverse community. I'm very excited to join our amazing school district, and to make a difference each and every day in the lives of my peers and our students.



HAYLEY DODD, 6th Grade Teacher

Hello Hornets! My name is Hayley Dodd and I am super excited to begin my teaching career at Pellston in the 6th grade! I recently graduated with my Master's in Education from Western Governors University. I was lucky enough to student teach in kindergarten last spring and observe in 4th grade last winter, both at Pellston Elementary, so I am very excited to be back at my favorite school. When I am not at school, you can find me spending time with my children, Freya and Arlo (both Pellston students!) and my husband, Hazen, shopping with my sister, the other Mrs. Dodd from 2nd grade, or reading. I am actively involved in my community, Cheboygan, where I sit on the City Council, the Downtown Development Authority, and the DDA Events Committee. I love to spend time in my community. I am very excited to start the school year and cannot wait to meet my students!



BRITTANY GIVENS, 3rd Grade Interventionist

I am so excited to be joining the Hornet Nation. It is my humble opinion that it is the best nation to join. I am a wife and mother of three young children. Pellston schools have inspired me to pursue a career in education and begin my career with Pellston Schools. I am most honored to become an interventionist and work firsthand with children. Pellston has completely changed the way my children view school, and they are excited and eager to learn new things. I am eager to see this experience firsthand and know that I will have an impact on the children that attend this school.



MIKEY SWIDEREK, Health and Physical Education Teacher, Middle/High School

Howdy Hornets! My name is Mikey Swiderek and I will be teaching health and physical education in the upcoming school year. I just graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Health and Physical Education from Central Michigan, and this will be my first year teaching. I was born and raised and currently live in Cheboygan, and am grateful to be back in northern Michigan with my friends and family. I love playing sports, reading, and doing outdoor activities. I am excited to have the opportunity to make an impact in the classroom, hallways, clubs/athletics, and the community at large.



BROOKE VIEAU, 7th and 8th Grade Math Teacher

My name is Brooke Vieau and I am thrilled to be your new 7th and 8th grade math teacher! My 14 years of experience in the classroom includes teaching 6-12th grade math classes, life science/biology and STEM. I have a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Central Michigan University, with a major in mathematics and minor in general biology. One way I enjoy connecting with my students is through athletics, where I have spent the last 20 years coaching at both middle and high school levels. I grew up near Larks Lake and attended Pellston Public Schools, from which I graduated in 2004. I am a proud mother to Audrey (6) and Bodhi (5 months), and live in Brutus with my husband and children. My favorite activities include spending time with family, boating, reading, and playing volleyball, softball and golf. It is with great enthusiasm that I return to my alma mater as an educator to reconnect with the amazing community that is Hornet Nation!

Meet more new Hornets on the next page!





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Welcoming new staff to the Nest!



LAKYN WEBSTER, Kindergarten Interventionist

I have two children, ages 3 and 4, who are attending their first year of preschool as Little Hornets! My husband and I have been married for 7 years and currently live in Cheboygan. I am in the process of earning my degree from Lake Superior State University to become a PK-3 teacher through the Mi Talent Together program. Everyone I have met at Pellston Public Schools have made me excited for this job and the future ahead!



HALI WILLIAMS, Assistant Preschool Teacher

I graduated from Pellston schools in 2021 after being a student here since kindergarten. I am so excited to be back in this school, surrounded by the best community members and students I could ask for. I am thrilled to be in the classroom environment, as I continue working towards my elementary education degree. I am glad to be back as a Hornet, and I cannot wait to get started and take on this year together.

District Updates

Beyond Basics partnership will help readers K-12

Pellston Public Schools is once again partnering with Beyond Basics, a nonprofit that provides intensive literacy tutoring to students in all grades who need extra reading support. Tutors provide one-on-one support to help students who are not reading at grade level or who are struggling. There is no cost to districts. For more information, visit www.beyondbasics.org.

Hornet's Nest Food Pantry

The Hornet's Nest Food Pantry made a buzzing entrance into the MS/HS building last school year and will continue into 2024-25. This student-focused pantry was started in collaboration with local volunteers and the Northmen Den Food Pantry. From personal care items to food, this pantry is open one day a week during the MS/HS lunch.



Visit our new store online!

Show your support for Pellston by buying Pellston apparel! The Nest profits are used to fund the National Honor Society Christmas project!

Shop now:

<https://the-nest-20-21.square.site/>

FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH FOR ALL ENROLLED STUDENTS!

We are pleased to inform our families that Pellston Public Schools will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program for the 2024-25 school year. ALL students enrolled in our district can receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at NO CHARGE to your household each day.

Please fill out and sign the Household Information Survey that has been mailed home; this form is needed for administrative purposes, not to determine eligibility. *This survey allows our school to benefit from various state and federal supplemental programs and is critical in determining the amount of money the school receives from a variety of supplemental programs. All survey information is confidential.* Without your assistance, the district cannot maximize utilization of available state and federal funds. This survey will also be available in both the elementary and high school offices.



More Hornet highlights!

Career Tech offerings continue to provide hands-on learning

Pellston High School's career and technical education offerings continue to provide unique opportunities for students to learn hands-on skills that translate directly into employment. Pellston is setting the bar regionally for our CTE offerings. We now offer: Business Administration and Management, Construction Technology, Health Occupations, Public Safety, PowerSports Technology, and Welding (a few are pictured below). These programs are offered to our students and open to any student in any Char-Em ISD school district.

CTE programs are open to all of our high school students, and we encourage students and their parents/caregivers to take a look at our offerings and talk to the high school counselor about enrolling!



Health Occ



PowerSports



Public Safety



Welding

Pellston pride, district wide!





PELLSTON ATHLETICS READY TO SOAR INTO A NEW YEAR!

Welcome back Hornet Nation! Our student-athletes and coaches have been working hard for months to make this Fall season a success. As always, the best place to find the most up-to-date information regarding Pellston Middle/High School sports (and district news) is at www.pellstonhornets.org!

Homecoming football game is Sept. 20, 2024!

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FROM THE GSRP PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

As Little Hornets Preschool enters its 14th year of providing quality programming, we're proud to report that we've tripled in size! Pellston Public Schools continues to be a leader in Early Childhood Education because of our community's tremendous support. Currently, we are operating one, 3-year-old classroom and two, 4-year-old classrooms, while maintaining a five-star rating from the state. While these might be our youngest hornets, their school and community impact is profound. Thank you for investing in them.

REGISTER FOR PARENT SQUARE COMMUNICATIONS

All district, school, grade level and classroom information will now be sent via email and/or text. For even more convenience, download the ParentSquare app (available for free for iOS and Android devices). These are the first steps that you need to take in order to sign up for the ParentSquare program:

1. Visit www.parentsquare.com/signin
2. Under Sign Up/Create Password, enter your Email or Cell Phone Number. You must use the same email or phone number you provided to your school.
3. Click Go.
4. If the email or phone number matches the information in ParentSquare, you will receive an account activation email or text to register.
 - a. If the email or phone number does not match the information in ParentSquare, please contact the office to update your personal information.
5. Follow the instructions from the activation email or text.

PELLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jim Milbrandt, President ■ Robert Thomson, Vice-President ■ Kristen Bauer-Frye, Secretary ■ Mark Zink, Treasurer
Bryan Searles, Member/Trustee ■ Stephanie Bromley, Member/Trustee ■ Serenity Dankert, Member/Trustee