

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Update

January 14, 2022

NEW INFORMATION:

Highland Mentoring Program continues:

Our mentoring program continues unabated as some of our 6th graders just worked with their 3rd grade mentees to create blankets to be donated to foster children. Each marking period the mentors and mentees do a formal activity, i.e. create a song in interactive media, team building in PE, etc. The partnerships rotate through all the activities together throughout the entire year. It is so nice seeing the older kids working with the younger kids. And, there is never a behavior issue, which is also always interesting. Below are some pictures of the program. We are very proud of the students.



Graham and Shortway hold up their finished product with the new mural in the background.

O'Shea and Postolaki working hard on their Red, White and Blue blanket. .

Skenderi putting the finishing touches and her and De Sane's blanket.

Morning Drop of Line:

Morning drop-off's are notoriously busy places for every school in America, especially in the cold or the rain. After all, approximately 300 students are being dropped off in a 20 minute time span. Please keep in mind the following to make drop off even more efficient, but also safer, as frustration with traffic sometimes leads to bad decisions.

- **Please pull all the way up in the line**, as far as you can go, so more cars can fit in line and drop off in tandem. Then go. The next wave of drop-offs can then come in. You do not have to drop off exactly at the cross walk. Please pull up.
- Please have your child **ready to exit the vehicle** from the **crossing guard side** (where the trees and grass are). This is safer. Students should have their book bag, Chromebook case and mask all ready to exit the vehicle quickly.
- **Please do not wait in the line** for your child to cross the street and enter the building. This creates a clog. As you are waiting, more cars are piling up behind, or passing. Please keep the line moving.
- Try not to pass vehicles unless it is absolutely necessary.

Chromebook Collection:

It seems we have persevered through the rising Covid cases and did not go virtual. Trends are decreasing in the community and drastically decreasing in our schools, so we are going to collect the Chromebooks back from grades 3 and 4 on Wednesday, January 19th. Please have your child bring the following three things to school on this day.

1) **Chromebook**

2) **Charger**

3) **Carrying Case**

Grades 5 and 6 will continue to travel back and forth with their chrome books. They have proven to be responsible and careful enough with the technology to continue. This can always change though. Please have your 5th and/or 6th grade child bring the Chromebook back every day to school charged.

Updated District Quarantining Guidelines:

Effective January 13th, the district released updated travel and quarantine guidelines based on the CDC and NJ Department of Health recommendations. Please review the document. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kulesha, the Highland school nurse.

- LINK: [Midland Park School District Revised Travel and Quarantine Guidelines](#)

End of Marking Period 2:

The second marking period ends on January 21st. 5th and 6th grade parents can always check the progress of their children on the Power School Parent portal. Should you have any last minute questions, please reach out to the corresponding teacher.

Upcoming Events:

- 1/17- *Martin Luther King Day: No School for students- Staff Development*
- 1/21- *Marking Period 2 ends*
- 1/24- *PTA Sponsored Principal Q and A*
- 1/27- *Highland Spelling Bee- Finalists*
- 1/28- *Reports cards released online through parent portal*

OLD BUT ALWAYS RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Student Vaccinations:

Students who choose to be vaccinated may submit proof of vaccination to the school nurse. This would prevent any close contact quarantine in case of an exposure at lunch or outside of school. **This is optional.** If you would like to submit a proof of vaccination, please reach out to Mrs. Kulesha, the school nurse; akulesha@mpsni.org

Is my child too sick to come to school?

A common question we get from parents when their child is under the weather is, "Should I send my child to school?" Viruses are on the rise in the winter months and our goal is always to keep kids as healthy as possible so they can attend school as much as possible. The link below consists of recommendations that hopefully will help you navigate the aforementioned question. As always, please contact the school nurse, Mrs. Kulesha should you have any health related questions.

[Is my child too sick to come to school?](#)

Highland School Student/Parent Handbook:

Every year the Student/Parent Handbook is embedded into the student academic planner that the PTA so graciously provides. In the handbook is information related to the school, i.e. code of conduct, absences, bell schedules, and other important information. It is also posted under resources on the Highland homepage. Please use this as a resource prior to calling the main office.

- [Highland Student-Parent Handbook Link 2021-2022](#)

Absences:

If your child will be absent, the responsible adult **must call the school before 8:00am** at (201) 445-3880 then **Press #1:** leave his or her name, the child's name, the child's teacher's name, and the reason for absence on the answering machine. Please do not just email the teacher as the teacher could be absent. Safety is always a priority. If we do not hear from a parent of an absent student, we do the following until a parent/guardian is reached:

- 1) Main office calls parents to verify absence
- 2) Main office calls emergency contacts
- 3) Main office will institute a robo call to all child contacts
- 4) Main office will contact the police

Birthday's in School:

Teachers will set up activities in grades 3-5 to celebrate your child's birthday. Please do not send in snacks, gifts, goodie bags, etc. for the class. Sometimes, not every time, it becomes a competition for the best gifts or goodie bags to send home, or there are not enough, and it all unravels. Each grade level and/or homeroom teacher will acknowledge birthdays in their own way so the students can be celebrated.