

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Update

January 26, 2022

The Midland Park School District has been working diligently with many stakeholders to put together a referendum that would enhance MPHS athletic fields, including, but not limited to; Field Turf the Stadium Field (with lights), Field Turf Schiffer Field, and install a new natural grass field on Lower Sunset Field. Some slides are attached below, but the entire scope of the project can be found on the district home page at the following link: [Field Turf Referendum- Midland Park School District](#)

» WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING

The Midland Park Public School District is requesting funding for a Facilities Renovation Program that would include **VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDING ATHLETIC FIELD RENOVATION PROJECTS**, via a targeted Referendum Vote on March 8, 2022.

UPGRADING OUR FACILITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

» WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING

Existing Field conditions require significant repairs at significant cost to allow continued and proper use of the fields.

- » Synthetic Turf at Sonny Santorine Field including lighting and modifications to existing drainage, irrigation and fencing. (It is understood that this natural turf field was constructed in 2015 through the last Referendum and included infrastructure for drainage and lighting to support the transition to Synthetic Turf - this will be reused, as will topsoil for Lower Sunset, fencing, bleachers, and press-box)
- » Synthetic Turf Fields - Baseball/Softball/Multipurpose at Schiffer Field including drainage upgrades, lighting & fencing.
- » Natural Turf Field at Lower Sunset - Multipurpose field including irrigation system.

NEW HIGHLAND INFORMATION:

Highland School Morning drop off Reminders:

- **Drop-Off Timeline (regular 8:20am Start):**
 - 8:00am- supervision provided at each entrance (20 minutes before school begins)
 - 8:19am- students enter the building.
 - 8:23am- **late bell sounds**. Outside doors will close. All students arriving who cannot get to their entrance by 8:23am, should then proceed to the front of the building to be let in through the main office. (when in doubt, go to the main office)
 - 8:25am- Morning announcements begin.
 - If it is raining or very cold, students will be let into the school at 8:10am (**latest**) from their same regular entrance. Please dress your children appropriately.
 - Delayed Opening: If there is a delayed opening and school starts at 10:00am, supervision starts at 9:40am (20 minutes before school, just like on a regular day).
 - **IMPORTANT**: For bell schedules, drop off times and other school procedures, please utilize the Student/Parent Highland Handbook which can be found in all student planners or online at: [Student - Parent Highland Planner](#)
 - **Student Lateness is recorded**. Students will get a detention for excessive lateness (see page 2 of the Planner (link above))

Squishy Football Players:

- It was Pokémon cards, then fidget spinners, and then poppers, and now it is NFL Squeezemates (Football Squishy's). There is always a new fad and it has caused quite a craze amongst some of the students, which sometimes leads to undesirable outcomes. There have been reports of 'missing' squishy's in school, or squishy trades that went array, even stealing of squishy' s. We work on it in school, but if the squishy's become a distraction for your child, please leave them home. If there is an issue in school, we will be in contact.



After School Pick Up:

- After the bell rings at 2:50pm, students are released with the expectation that they will be watched/picked up by parents. Please help us stop students from throwing snow and/or skating on ice. There is limited supervision outside after school. Students who misbehave may be held accountable for their actions.

The Return of Ice Cream:

- On Friday February 4, ice cream will return to Highland School (The order has been placed). Students will be able to purchase ice cream for \$1.75 using their student ID account (if money was deposited), or cash. Student ID method is preferred for efficiency.
 - To add money to a student account, your child may bring money (cash or check made out to Pomptonian Food Service) to be loaded onto their account.

Marking Period 2 Report Cards:

- Report Cards will be released via the Portal on Friday January 28th at 2:50pm. Please make sure you can log into the Power School Portal ([Link:Portal Log-in Page](#)) so you can see your child's progress in Highland School. Should you need assistance logging into the Portal, please contact Mrs. Treta, of the Technology Department, at ctreta@mpsni.org.

Emergency Drill Notification:

- As per recent legislation, every time the school conducts an **Emergency Drill** (not a fire drill), the parents must be notified in writing. This means, that from this point on, every time Highland School has an Emergency Drill, i.e. evacuation, lockdown, shelter in place, etc. parents will get an email accordingly. We practice emergency drills 1x per month.

Upcoming Events:

- 1/27- *Highland Spelling Bee- Finalists compete*
- 1/28- *Reports cards released online through parent portal*
- 2/8- *Referendum Presentation- Godwin School, 7:30pm*
- 2/21- *February Break begins*

OLD BUT ALWAYS RELEVANT INFORMATION:

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.

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](#)

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@mpsnj.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](#)