

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Weekly Updates

October 12th, 2021

NEW INFORMATION:

Week in Review:

Highland students had 2 assemblies this past week. An interactive STEAM Museum where students built arches, used ozobots, etc. and an SEL presentation about stereotypes and feeling good. The students had a lot of fun at both as they were up and moving around and not just sitting and listening. Today, teachers will be the focus of SEL and will be hearing an inspirational speaker focused on perseverance and overcoming obstacles.

The Golden Sneaker: Every month Mrs. Dolianitis gives out an award called the Golden Sneaker to a grade 3 or 4 homeroom that stands out for good behavior, sportsmanship, and effort. The Month of September's winning homeroom was: **Mrs. Lelinho.**

PE stars of the month: Students recognized for their individual effort, behavior, and sportsmanship for the month of September:

- Grade 6- Matthew Buttino
- Grade 5- Bailey Stein
- Grade 4- Chase Richards
- Grade 3- Faith Vlacancich



Golden Sneaker in its case with a digital sign to the left. The sneaker travels from deserving homeroom to homeroom.

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Parent-Teacher conferences are not posted on the district schedule because they only apply to the Elementary Schools. Grades 3-5 teachers have scheduled, or will be scheduling, conferences with every parent. Due to the nature of the grade 6 Middle School schedule, teachers will schedule conferences for the most at risk students only as the time gets closer.

- This year's conference dates are as follows;
 - 11/18- evening
 - 11/22- afternoon
 - 11/23- afternoon

***Please remember conference days are a 12:30pm dismissal.

Progress Reports:

Students in grades 3-4 should have gotten a progress report by Monday 10/11. If this is not the case please contact the teacher. Please read these progress reports, discuss with your child and/or reach out to the teacher as needed. Grade 5 and 6 progress reports, unless there is a significant issue, are done through the open gradebook available to parents. Please log into the Power School Parent Portal and check your child's current progress.

- If you do not know how to log into Power School please contact Mrs. Treta at ctreta@mpsnj.org

Phase II Lunch:

Phase II lunch has been going ok. We still have a few kinks to work out. To make things more efficient and to prepare for Phase 3 lunch, which would involve snacks and highly anticipated ice cream, parents are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to add money to their child's account so we can just use student ID number's instead of a cash exchange. This is much faster to get students served.

- 2 ways to do this:
 1. Child may bring in a check/cash to be loaded onto the student account manually by Pomptonian. (students can drop off to main office in an envelope with name to be preloaded prior to lunch or hand right to cashier)
 2. Sign up for the *Payforit Program*: [Pay for it Link](#) (please click link and follow directions to set up an account) Parents can track lunch orders.

Grade 6 Start Strong State Assessment:

- Grade 6 has Start Strong Science this week- (**Students must bring Chromebooks charges**)
 - Mr. Ferro and Mr. Savage Homeroom on 10/14
 - Mr. Kilgallen and Ms. Edwards Homeroom on 10/15
- See Start Strong information for grades 4-6 below under 'Old But Always Relevant Information'.

Upcoming Events:

- 10/12- PTA Sponsored Pumpkin Patch
- 10/15- PTA Sponsored Harvest Festival – 3pm
- 10/18- Read-a-thon begins
- 10/28- Highland Picture Retakes
- 10/30- Halloween Class Parties: 2pm
PTA Sponsored Trunk or Treat: 4pm
- 11/3- 1st Marking Period Ends
- 11/4-11/5 – NO School for Teachers Convention
- 11/11- Veterans Day
- 11/12- Report Cards On-line

OLD BUT ALWAYS RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Highland Clubs:

- Highland School will start advertising for participation. For a list of all clubs and the grade levels that can participate, please go to the following website. [Highland Clubs and Descriptions](#) . (Some clubs may not be run based on not enough student interest.)
- To participate in a club, students must have solid grades, solid attendance and show up to the meetings.
- To sign up for a club, please email the listed advisor. All emails can be found under faculty drop down on the main Highland Webpage: <http://highland.mpsnj.org/>

Start Strong Assessment:

- The State of New Jersey is requiring all school districts to administer the "Start Strong" standardized assessment. As per the state, "This assessment is designed to produce information that should be used as a standards-based complement to the resources used by educators in their classrooms to evaluate the needs of students." The results will enable districts to obtain "... a data point to support curriculum and instructional planning."
 - For further information about the test itself, you may view the State PowerPoint Presentation at: [Start Strong State PowerPoint](#)
 - Other Key information:
 - Grade 3 does not take the Start Strong Assessment, only grades 4-6.

- Testing is 45 minutes to 1 hour long for each subject.
- Grades 3-6 will test in Language Arts/Literacy and Math
- Just grade 6 will test in Science
- All accommodations for students with special programs will be in place.
- Results are supposed to come out in the late Fall.

Start Strong Highland Testing Schedule			
Date:	10/14 & 10/15	10/19	10/20
Subject Tested:	Science	Language Arts/Lit.	Mathematics
Grade Levels:	*Grade 6	Grades 4-6	Grades 4-6

**Grade 6 Science: half of the students will test in Science on 10/14, and the other half on 10/15.*

Digital e-books:

- Reading is still the best thing a child can do in order to be successful at school. Below is a chart that illustrates how reading benefits a child starting in Kindergarten. Twenty minutes a day goes a long way. **It is never too late to start a reading routine.** (See e-book resources provided by our library below.)
- We are always looking for easy ways to make books accessible to our students. This year your 3rd, 4th and 5th grade child/children will learn more about our digital eBook collection, **Destiny Discover**. 6th grade students have had this instruction previously and still have access to the database. They are encouraged to use it.
- Click here to read more about Destiny Discover: [Destiny Discovery](#)
- Visit this website and your child can sign in and use the resources: [Destiny Discover E-Books](#)
- Any questions, please contact Ms. Christine Carr: ccarr@mpsnj.org

Drop-Off:

- Drop off and student entrances with temperature checks have been smooth. Thank-you for helping with that. Since everyone knows where they are going at this point, and as we get into full swing, we are going to tighten up entrance a little bit.
- **Drop-Off Timeline:**
 - 8:00am- supervision provided at each entrance, with temperature checks, for students being dropped off to school.
 - 8:19am- students enter the building.
 - 8:23am- **late bell sounds**. Outside doors will close. All students arriving who can not 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, students will be let into the school at 8:10am (latest) from their same regular entrance. Grade 6 will then go to the cafeteria, grade 5 will be in the music room hallway, grades 3 and 4 will be stationed in their hallway outside their classrooms.