

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Weekly Updates

October 20th, 2021

Week in Review:

The Start Strong Assessments will conclude this week in Language Arts/Literacy and Math in grades 4-6 and Science in just grade 6. Administering the tests, which were a lot quicker than the typical State Assessments we will take in the Spring, are already giving us some nice data to work off of. We will report on the test results at a BOE meeting in the future when everything is finalized, however, in looking over everything so far, I am happy with the results. The teachers, parents, and your children made the best of a strange school year last year and the data so far supports a successful outcome despite the circumstances. I am really proud of everyone.

The mentor program between grades 6 and 3 is in full swing. The students are working through their PE courses to collaborate to solve little obstacles. The kids have a lot of fun together and it is nice when the mentors and mentees see each other in the hallway and say hello.



NEW INFORMATION:

The Read-a-Thon:

The Read-a-Thon began officially on Monday. Already 219 students in Highland have signed up and read a total of 15,818 minutes. Ms. Maimone's class is leading the way right now with 2,651 minutes read by her homeroom alone. Please encourage your child to chip in and read. **Nobody has ever said "I wish I read less as a kid."** After all, the Read-a-Thon is not only a fundraiser for the PTA and is another opportunity to give out prizes to homerooms and students for logging minutes, but hopefully and more importantly, the challenge gets students inspired about reading. Sometimes it only takes one good book. (If you have any questions regarding your child(ren)'s account information, please contact Laura Derwin at mpepta2ndvp@gmail.com.)

Halloween at Highland:

Halloween is fast approaching. Please make sure that if your children choose to dress up on Friday 10/29, that they abide by the following;

- Students **should not have to change** into the costume at school.
- The costume must **fit properly** and cannot be too long and **cannot violate the dress code**.
- Leave **weapons, handcuffs, clubs** or other **props** that accompany the costume at home.
- **Masks and extensive face paint are not allowed-we have to be able to recognize students.**

- The costume you wear must **allow you to sit, stand, or move** around the classroom and building without difficulty.
- **Please, the costume should be appropriate for an elementary school.** Highland actually serves K-6 students, please consider the age of the students when choosing a costume to wear to school.

Classroom parties will begin at 2:00 pm. Homeroom representatives will set up games and activities for the children by homeroom to partake in. Grade 6 will have a grade level party outside (weather permitting).

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](#)

Quarantining due to vacation: (Beginning 10/20/21)

There is a new district rule in regards to virtual education provided for students who go on vacation. If a student is quarantined by the nurse because of a vacation in which unvaccinated students travel out of the tri-state area and must quarantine, upon return, students will be entitled to asynchronous work only, i.e. packets. A virtual classroom will only be set up for children after approval from the school nurse, for an exposure unrelated to vacationing. As always, you must do what is best for your family, however it is the district stance that the effect on the classroom when students go virtual is substantial enough that we want to avoid it whenever possible. Again, students who are quarantined unrelated to vacationing are still entitled to virtual learning. I apologize for the change in rules after the start of school, but as always, this is an ever-evolving landscape that the district is constantly adapting to in order to provide the best schooling possible for our students.

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.

Upcoming Events:

- 10/18- *Read-a-Thon began*
- 10/22- *Read-a-Thon ends*
- 10/23- *Walk to End Diabetes – organized by one of our Midland Park students*
 - To read more about it: [Walk to End Diabetes Link](#)
- 10/21- *Grade 3 Bee Assembly*
- 10/28- *Highland Picture Retakes*
- 10/29- *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: (Sign ups coming to an end)

- 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/>

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 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 all conference days are a 12:30pm dismissal for students.*

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@mpsny.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.