

# The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue  
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

## Highland School Update

*January 4, 2022*

### NEW INFORMATION:

#### Communication is Key:

If a child tests positive for Covid, is showing symptoms, or was a close contact, we ask that you please reach out to the school nurse at [akulesha@mpsny.org](mailto:akulesha@mpsny.org) or call the school at 201-445-3880 x 309. We want to offer as little disruption to the school program as possible when it comes to quarantining. If a quarantine period is approved by the nurse we can set up virtual learning the very next day for your child or children.

When in doubt about a situation, please just call and we can walk you through any Covid scenario. All other absences would simply be a regular, good old fashioned sick day. Dr. Cirasella will e-blast any significant district news to families as additional guidance is received. Please be on the lookout for these district updates.

#### Virtual learning:

At this time virtual learning is only provided for students in quarantine. Once the school nurse is contacted and a return date is established virtual learning will be set up the next day.

**Students must attend virtual learning if it is set up for them**, which includes homeroom attendance (marked present) and attendance in each class. If students will not be attending school virtually, they must be called out as a regular sick day from the parent. Students cannot attend school a la carte, picking and choosing the classes they would like to attend, or not attend, that particular day. It is a lot of work to set up a hybrid classroom and we do not mind doing it, but not when it becomes a cat and mouse game with missing virtual students.

We do however understand the strain of virtual learning at home and would ask if students must miss a class that it is communicated to the teacher or main office so we know. Otherwise, it is like a 'virtual cut.' If it becomes an issue, teachers will establish policies for these types of situations and there may be academic and/or behavioral consequences for repeated 'virtual cuts'. We just want the kids in front of us learning as much as possible.

#### Morning line-up and Outdoor Recess:

The cold is now creeping in. It was 18 degrees this morning for line up and then shot up to 33 degrees for recess today. Being outside is a good thing as it provides relief from the masks and allows students to run around and socialize normally. **Please have students dress appropriately for the weather.** The rule of thumb is over 30 degrees students go outside for recess. Under 30 degrees it is an indoor recess day (classrooms). We cannot accommodate underdressed students sitting inside. Supervision, amidst Covid, is at an absolute premium these days. All faculty is maximized in the classrooms to support student learning. We cannot watch a handful of student who are underdressed. I hope you understand.

### **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](mailto:akulesha@mpsnj.org)

### **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:**

### **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 to 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.