

# The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue  
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

## Highland School Weekly Updates

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Week in Review:

The PTA Book Fair was a success. Yes, it raised some money for the school (thank-you to the volunteers and those who supported the Fair), but even more importantly kids were getting excited about shopping for books and then hopefully reading those books. I cannot emphasize reading enough when it comes to learning and the advantages it gives students who read routinely.

We also had our first Do-the-Right-Thing Assembly. The message, as simple as it may sound, was themed around how strong the Dandelion is as compared to how fragile an orchid is. We have all seen dandelions growing in concrete and spaces where a little flower should never be able to survive, but somehow they do. Hot or cold, wet conditions or dry, shade or sun--- the dandelion is a survivor. We can all learn from a Dandelion. Also, during the assembly, nominated DTRT students received a T-shirt, a hand shake and applause in front of the school. The Smile Campaign Video was also played, which is a video montage of anonymous messages of kindness given to students. We have a lot of very kind students in this school.



### NEW INFORMATION:

#### New District quarantine procedures, including travel (UPDATED 11/16/21):

The District has released a revised quarantining procedure for students earlier this week (link: [MP Covid-19 Quarantine Procedure-11.16.21](#) ). Much of the guidance is the same, however there is a big change when it comes to travel.

- Unvaccinated individuals who travel domestically do not have to quarantine from school as long as they are asymptomatic. Students can attend school after returning from vacation which eliminates asynchronous learning. Students who are quarantined for any other reason are still entitled to virtual learning and should work through the school nurse Mrs. Kulesha; [akulesha@mpsnj.org](mailto:akulesha@mpsnj.org)

#### 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)

#### After School Activities:

After school by the Highland playground is a busy place. Students are welcome to play on the playground, but we would ask that students not play wall ball, football, or ride their bicycles on the blacktop after release as accidental injuries have been occurring; people are getting hit with balls, bikes, and active students are occasionally colliding with bystanders. Please help with this and redirect your

child as needed. Announcements will be made and we will supervise to the best of our ability, but it is difficult after school as faculty is wrapping up the day with students, clubs, emails, and phone calls.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- 11/22- *Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences (12:30pm Student dismissal)*
- 11/23- *Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences (12:30pm Student dismissal)*
- 11/23- *PTA FREE PIZZA DAY (must submit student form)*
- 11/24- *12:30pm dismissal*
- 11/25-11/26- *Thanksgiving Vacation*
- 11/29- *Return to School Happy*
- 12/3- *Town Tree Lighting 6:00pm- Highland Band performs (gr. 5-6)*
- 12/8- *Choral Winter Concert (gr. 4,5,6)- 7:00pm*
- 12/9- *Band Winter concert (gr. 5,6)- 7:00pm*
- 12:10- *Half day for students- District Professional Development Day for staff*

### **OLD BUT ALWAYS RELEVANT INFORMATION:**

#### **Report Cards:**

First marking period report cards will be made available on the Power School Parent/Student Portal on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:50pm. We use grades to share concretely how students are doing relative to the grade level expectations. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your child first and then reach out to the teacher as needed.

- **If you do not have a Parent Portal Account, please reach out to Mrs. Treta in the tech department at: [Ctreta@mpsnj.org](mailto:Ctreta@mpsnj.org)**

#### **Student Academic Honors:**

At Highland we enjoy nothing more than celebrating student achievements. All Highland students who receive academic honors will receive a congratulatory letter from the Principal and an Honors designation will be archived in Power School. The following are criteria for students to receive Academic Honors at Highland School;

- **Grades 3-5:** Students who receive all A's in the core subjects will be on the Honor Roll (not including Specials as they do not give letter grades).
- **Grade 6:** There are two levels of Honors;
  - 1) **Honor Roll-** Students receive all A's and no more than 3 B's in all their subjects including specials and electives.
  - 2) **Principal's List:** Students receive all A's in all subjects.

#### **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.

### **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.