

# The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue  
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

## Highland School Update

*February 8, 2022*

### **NEW HIGHLAND INFORMATION:**

#### **Valentine's Day:**

- Students are allowed to bring in Valentines cards for formal distribution in their homerooms (if they want) grades 3-5. No food or treats please. Grade 6, there is no formal distribution time for Valentine's Day cards so that is on their own. Please let the rule of thumb be 'No Drama.'

#### **Highland Spelling Bee:**

- Gabby Pena, now in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, won the Highland Spelling Bee three years in a row, but now that she is out of the building, first place was wide open. Below are the students who placed in the 2022 Highland Spelling Bee.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Joseph Vrsalovic- grade 6
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Leila Bastos Andreazza- grade 5
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Xavier McCarthy- grade 4

#### **Read Across America- Monday Feb. 28 – Friday March 4**

- Please click the link for the Read Across America Flyer which includes the student oath, school wide DEAR time, One School, One Book Assembly (K-4), and Special Guest Readers for Godwin classes (Highland students will be the guest readers), and Dress Up Days.
  - [Read Across America 2022 Link](#)

#### **The infamous Car Line:**

- We have been doing so much better with the car line- THANK-YOU. Traffic is not backing up to the intersection of Prospect and Godwin as much.
  - **Reminders of things we can do to keep the car line moving:**
    - Pull all the way up as far as you can go. Have student exit vehicle on left side whenever possible (safer).
    - Have a mask, water bottles and backpack ready to go, like a paratrooper ready to jump out of a plane. When the car stops it's a "Go, Go, Go."
    - Pre hug and kiss your child prior to getting in the car. Those are important things, but safety of kids during drop off is too. We want to avoid cars passing in line as much as possible.
    - **If you find yourself U-turning anywhere, you are doing something illegal. Let's try not to do illegal things.**

#### **Mask Mandate:**

- Governor Murphy made some important announcements yesterday regarding the mask mandate and state of the Pandemic. I have been getting a lot of good questions already from parents. A district email will be sent out by the end of the week with information on how the Midland Park School District will move forward as the Pandemic transitions to an Endemic.

### **Highland Food Drive:**

- The Highland School Student Council is collecting canned items and cereal for their Annual Super Bowl Food Drive. Students can place items outside the main office in the box of the Super Bowl team they think will win. Donations will be given to the Sloatsburg Pantry and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in our Problem Based Learning class will personally bring the food and stock the shelves as a commitment to providing service learning opportunities for Highland School students.

### **School Climate Survey:**

- Beginning the week of February 28th, students in grades two through twelve (those who have given parental consent on the portal), will take the School Climate Survey. This is the twelfth year that our students will participate in this anonymous survey. This age appropriate annual survey assures that Midland Park Public Schools is in compliance with provisions outlined in the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act. The voluntary survey also provides our Administration and School Safety and Climate Teams with valuable feedback from our students. As a result of this feedback, our district is able to identify areas of strength and address areas that need improvement. This student feedback assists us in our endeavor to promote a positive school climate and reduce bullying. Our School Climate Survey results are shared with the community during our annual HIB Community Presentation in the fall. If you are interested in previewing the School Climate Survey, there is a hard-copy kept in the main office of each school. As always, we appreciate your partnership and your support as we all work together to make Midland Park Public Schools a friendly, welcoming, and respectful educational community.

### **Principal Update Archive:**

- If you are ever looking for an old Principal's Highland Update, they can all be found under 'Shortcuts' on the Highland Homepage, or by clicking this link.
  - [Highland Principal Update Archive](#)

### **Upcoming Events:**

- 2/7- *Highland Food drive begins (thru the 11<sup>th</sup>)*
- 2/8- *Referendum Presentation- Godwin School, 7:30pm*
- 2/21- *February Break begins*
- 2/28- *School Climate Survey begins*
- 2/28- *Read Across America begins*
- 3/9- *Battle of the Books- grades 5-6 (those teams who signed up)*

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

### **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](#)

### **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.

### **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)

### **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.

### **Updated District Quarantining Guidelines:**

Effective January 13<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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?](#)