

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Update

March 4, 2022

NEW HIGHLAND INFORMATION:

Read-Across-America Week: (Thank-you Ms. Carr)

Read-Across-America week was exciting, especially for our youngest students. Dressing up all week (my favorite was fancy day), the One School, One Book Kick Off (grades K-4), and the student's favorite 'Drop Everything and Read'. Students and faculty stopped what they were doing for 15 minutes and simply read a book. The reading time was nice, the quiet was nice, a little eerie how quiet everything was, but doing something as a school is always good for school culture and morale.



MPPEF Comedy Night:

The MPPEF does a lot of wonderful things for the school community. Please click the link for information on the Dinner and Comedy Show hosted by the MPEEF on Saturday March 19, 2022. What is better than food and laughs? It is going to be a great night. [MPPEF Comedy Night Link](#)

Newspaper Club:

Highland School has 14 clubs, one being the Newspaper Club. The club issued their winter edition of the "Highland Roar". You can read the newspaper here: [Highland Roar Newspaper](#)

- The newspaper was also put on actual newspaper and distributed to homerooms. There will be a Spring edition to the newspaper as well.

Mask Mandate:

On Tuesday, March 1st, families received an email from our Superintendent, Dr. Cirasella, detailing new mask guidelines for the Midland Park School District. **Masking during school hours will be optional starting March 7, 2022.** We understand that our students and families may respond differently to the end of the mask requirement. Some may feel relieved to no longer need face coverings, while others may be anxious that masks will not be universally worn. We ask that students and staff continue to be respectful, courteous and kind to each other regardless of whether they choose to wear a mask or not. Temperature checks will also not need to be performed anymore. However, until we received further guidance the district is continuing with the separate eating spaces in the gym/ cafeteria with dividers for the time being. We do anticipate changes in that regard in the future if all goes well.

6th Grade End of Year Activities:

Parents of 6th graders, please be on the lookout for an email from the PTA as they are starting to coordinate end of year activities, including T-shirts for the 6th graders.

Community Service:

The goal of Highland Community Service is not to just collect and donate, but to engage in some sort of service learning. Two examples are below. We enjoyed not only collecting toys and food to donate last month, but also forging relationships so we can actually see who we are positively affecting and also putting a little sweat equity into service as well.

- **Student Council Toy Drive (right):** Toys were collected by the student council and donated to a school in Newark. Pictured to the right are the students with their new toys. Thank-you to all that donated.



- **PBL Food Pantry (Left):** All items collected for the food pantry, were physically brought to the pantry by the 6th grade Highland students for their PBL elective. The shelves were then stocked by our students with the food we brought.

Upcoming Events:

- 3/7- Masks become optional / No more morning temperature scans
- 3/8- Referendum Vote
- 3/9- Battle of Books begins (Grade 5 & 6)
- 3/10- Sky Dome planetarium visitation (K-3) {grades 4-6 will go in Spring}
- 3/11- Half day for students- PD for teachers
- 3/15- 7th grade honors Language Arts placement test; Media Center, 3:00pm (eligible students)
- 3/16- 7th grade honors Math placement test; Media Center, 3:00pm (eligible students)
- 3/19- MPPEF Comedy Night
- 4/1- 3rd marking period ends
- 4/8- 3rd marking period reports cards released

OLD BUT ALWAYS RELEVANT INFORMATION:

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](#)

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. 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.

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

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?](#)