

# The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue  
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

## Highland School Update

*March 18, 2022*

### NEW HIGHLAND INFORMATION:

With the weather becoming more Spring-like, the outdoor classroom is being used more and more. I cannot thank the PTA, the MPPEF, and TLC Landscaping enough for all their help making this actually happen. The outdoor classroom makes outside learning so much more feasible as kids are not rolling around on the grass, or picking the grass, or rubbing their hands through the grass. We now have a nice structured area with sitting walls and paver paths. There is a whiteboard and internet access and amazingly, an aura of privacy from the amazing plantings that define the space. It really is something to be proud of.



Mrs. Guarini's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom learning outside; on the tables, on the sitting wall and on the paver floor.

### Highland Community Outreach through the Mentor Program:



Here is a picture during a March 2022 ISP event in which the women were presented with the special blankets from our Highland students!

Mrs. Scala, as part of the grade 3 and 6 Mentor Program at Highland Elementary School, continues to make special blankets with inspirational statements, like, "Stay Strong," "You can do this." Some of the blankets went to a group of women experiencing homelessness through a wonderful program called The Ignatian Spirituality Project . This program serves people recovering from homelessness. The recipients wrote kind notes to the school thanking the students.

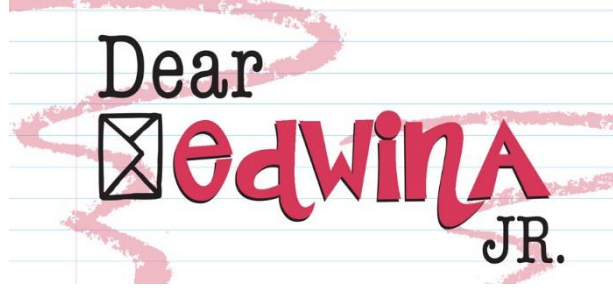
### MPPEF Comedy Night: Presale Tickets end tonight

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 this Saturday March 19, 2022. I am looking forward to the food and the laughs and since I am bringing my wife too, I get credit for a rare date night.

[MPPEF Comedy Night Link](#)

**Highland School Musical:** *April 1, 2022 at 6:30pm*

This year's Highland School Musical will be *Dear Edwina Jr.*. This is a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade production Directed by Mrs. Kamp. The evening performance will be Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm in the Highland Gymnasium. The students will also perform in front of all their peers during the school day performance on Thursday.



**SpongeBob the Musical:** *MPHS Production*

I know that a lot of our students are SpongeBob fans. Mrs. Halliwell, the Director, always offers a phenomenal product. Please see attached link for information on show times and tickets.

[Sponge Bob - The Musical Flyer](#)

**Middle School Softball:**

6th grade students interested in trying out for the middle school girls softball team may begin the registration process. Links and instructions for registration are located on the welcome section of the athletics webpage. Tryouts will begin in late March/early April. Any questions, please feel free to reach out to athletic director, Glenn Stokes at [gstokes@mpsnj.org](mailto:gstokes@mpsnj.org)  
<http://mphs.mpsnj.org/athletics/welcome>

**Upcoming Events:**

- 3/18- PTA Family Bingo/Baking Contest: 7:00-8:30pm in the Godwin Gym
- 3/19- MPPEF Comedy Night
- 3/28- Assembly Grades K-3- Grand Falloons- Recycling
- 3/29- Cultural Awareness Day- Instruments from Around the World -Assembly grades K-6
- 3/31- Highland Musical, Dear Edwina Jr. --- in school performance
- 4/1- Highland Musical, Dear Edwina Jr. --- night performance-6:30pm in Highland Gym.
- 4/1- 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period ends/ 4<sup>th</sup> marking period begins
- 4/4- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Author Zoom Meeting
- 4/6- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Orientation at MPHS (for current 6<sup>th</sup> graders)
- 4/7-8 Grade 6 Fort Lee Field Trip
- 4/8- 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period reports cards released
- 4/11- Spring Break begins
- 4/19- Earthdome (planetarium) Assembly for grades 4-6
- 4/21- Elementary Open House Showcase
- 4/28- Take Your Child to Work Day

**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)

### **Mask Mandate:**

On Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

### **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 Covid 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?](#)