

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Update

March 25, 2022

NEW HIGHLAND INFORMATION:

Covid-19 Update:

We have been monitoring the Covid situation closely as we continue to transition to normalcy. Based on guidance from officials, current state/county/town numbers, and the fact that there have been 0 cases in the school over the past several weeks and only 1 in over a month, the district will continue to ease restrictions in the coming days and weeks. In Highland School this would entail taking down the shields during lunch, turning on the water fountains, and eventually consolidating the students for lunch in the cafeteria so we can utilize the gymnasium again for the middle periods, as well as, offer more extensive lunch options. All this will not happen overnight, but this is the goal so we can have students start adjusting to what will be a typical next year.

Grade 6 End-of-Year Activities:

Grade 6 students have a lot to look forward to at the end of the year; YMCA trip, T-shirt, Bar-B-Que, Dance, Yearbook Signing, Promotion, Field Day, Clap Out, etc. Many of these events the 6th grade PTA organizes and/or helps out with. The PTA has reached out to all parents regarding dues for End of Year Activities so they can make it as special as possible. (If there is a financial hardship, please just let the PTA know). Please check your email or contact a PTA representative for more information.

Grade 6 End-of-Year Activity Information for Parents.

In November, students were part of a Power Point Presentation outlining expectations and fairness and how students can lose those coveted end-of-year privileges, which was also outlined in the 6th grade parent orientation. For more specific information, please read the links below;

- Parent Letter: [EOY Student Expectations Letter for Parents](#)
- Student Presentation: [Student Expectations Presentation](#)
 - This presentation was given to students in November after the 1st marking period

REMINDER: Highland School Musical: April 1, 2022 at 7:00pm

This years Highland School Musical will be *Dear Edwina Jr.*. This is a 5th and 6th grade production directed by Mrs. Kamp. The evening performance will be Friday April 1st at 7:00pm in the Highland Gymnasium. The students will also perform in front of all their peers at the school day performance on Thursday.



Take Your Child to Work Day (TYCTWD):

Take Your Child to Work Day is on Thursday April 28th and is a State excused absence. As is customary, we anticipate a lot of absences on this day and to ensure our teachers can plan ahead accordingly, advance notice is appreciated. A letter will go home on or about April 18th that a parent can sign and return to the homeroom teacher to excuse your child for TYCTWD (so you do not have to print out). Or

you can print out the form below and return. Once the form is returned, there is no need to call your child out on the 28th. Enjoy the workday with your child.

- TYCTWD Sign out Form: [TYCTWD Form - 4.28.22](#)

Upcoming Events:

- 3/28- *Assembly Grades K-3- Grand Falloons- Recycling*
- 3/28- *District Coffee Connections- 7:00pm in MPHS Media Center*
- 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- *3rd marking period ends/ 4th marking period begins*
- 4/4- *3rd Grade Author Zoom Assembly*
- 4/6- *7th grade Orientation at MPHS (for current 6th graders)*
- 4/7-8 *Grade 6 Fort Lee Field Trip*
- 4/8- *3rd 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](#)

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

<http://mphs.mpsnj.org/athletics/welcome>

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 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@mpsni.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?](#)