

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Update

April 18, 2022

NEW HIGHLAND INFORMATION:

Library in Highland is no longer the library that we grew up with. Sure Ms. Carr still teaches students how to find books and utilize resources in the Media Center, but now it is connected to an array of hands on activities that correlate with standards. For example, students not only learn the history of paper, but make paper themselves (pictured below). Also, students learn to harness the precision of new technology. By utilizing the Cricut, which cuts different material based on a computer program, it allows students to professionally customize what they make. The Cricut is much like a printer, but instead of ink, it uses fine blades that cuts material based on what is uploaded into the program. Highland students created name tags (image 1 and 2) out of donated floor samples, and also created their name in banner form (images 3 and 4).

1



3



4



2



Students blending material to make pulp.



Pictured Left: Students spreading pulp on the deckle.

Pictured Above: the finished paper product after it dries.

Do the Right Thing Assembly:

A message to appreciate education as well as recognize some of our students for 'Doing the Right Thing' took place on Thursday the 7th of April. To see pictures & nomination write-ups, please click the link.

- DTRT Winner Webpage: [DTRT Winner Webpage](#)

Smile Campaign #10:

Also part of the DTRT assembly is the Highland Smile Campaign, where students give anonymous notes of kindness to each other. Since it is anonymous, students do not know who gave them the 'smile slip' and the giver is never recognized. The reinforcement is only in the way it makes one of their school mate's smile. Some smile slips are read and filmed and played in front of the school.

Smile Campaign Video: [Smile Campaign #10 Video](#)

Take Your Child to Work Day (TYCTWD): *(letter and sign out coming home)*

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 early this week with your child** that a parent can sign and return to the homeroom teacher to excuse your child for TYCTWD. 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](#)

Important - Grade 6 Baby Pictures: **Deadline April 30th**

The 6th grade slide show is a tradition at Highland School. To make sure that every child is included in the slideshow, the chairperson, Mrs. Stein, is asking for your help. Can you please email the following photos of your child by **April 30th**?

- 1 baby picture
- 2 pictures from grades K-4
- 1 current 6th Grade photo
- 5 group photos with **ONLY 6th graders from Midland Park** in them (no siblings please!)

Please email to lawryastein@gmail.com, and include your child's name in the subject line. An email will also be forthcoming.

Field Day 2022:

We are trying things a little differently this year for Field Day. Godwin and Highland School's Field Days are separate this year, which will allow Mrs. Dolianitis and Mr. Lawlor to set up teams for a schoolwide competition. **Highland School Field Day is scheduled for May 26th**. This will be a scheduled ½ day for Highland School students (12:30pm dismissal). The PTA is supplying shirts at no cost to students for Field Day. Aftercare for students who are in the aftercare program will be at Highland School on this day until Godwin dismisses.

2022 State Assessments (NJSLA):

The New Jersey State Learning Assessment for Math, Language Arts and Science will take place in Mid-May. Please do your best to have your child(ren) in school, fed, and coming off a good night's sleep. For specific dates, testing times, and grade levels see the chart below.

2022 NJSLA Testing Dates			
Assessment Name	Grades	Dates	Units/Times
NJSLA Language Arts	3-6 (whole school)	5/10 & 5/11 <i>(1 unit per day)</i>	2 units total <i>(75-90 min/ unit)</i>
NJSLA Math	3-6 (whole school)	5/7 & 5/18 <i>(1-2 units per day)</i>	3 units total <i>(60 min/ unit)</i>
NJSLA Science	Grade 5 only	5/19 & 5/20 <i>(2 units per day)</i>	4 units total <i>(45 min/ unit)</i>

District Award for Music:

Midland Park has been chosen once again by the NAAM Foundation as a 2022 Best Communities for Music Education. This is the districts 7th time receiving the national award, which is given to districts that are dedicated to the music arts both in program offerings, participation, and budget. Thank-you for your support of the Music Arts program in Midland Park. For more information on the award please click the link: <https://www.nammfoundation.org/What-We-Do>



Open House: 4/21/22

One April 21st starting at 6:00pm, Highland School doors will be open for parents and children to come in and peruse the hallways and classrooms to view some of the student work/projects throughout the year. Thank-you to Mrs. Grammer and the students for helping create a lot of the art work and for the parent volunteers who came in to hang them around the building.

Covid 19 Measures:

Masks are off, water fountains are back on, all visors are down, and in the coming days we will be consolidating lunch so all students are eating in the cafeteria again. This will allow students to sit with their friends from other homerooms (students have been great sports), return the gymnasium to normal use for the middle periods, as well as, get the lunch staff re-acclimated to the lunch volume and routine so we can pick right up in September where we left off two years ago.

Upcoming Events:

- 4/19- *Earthdome (planetarium) Assembly for grades 4-6*
- 4/21- *Elementary Open House Showcase*
- 4/26- *Penny Wars for Art Room Renovation begins*
- 4/28- *Take Your Child to Work Day*
- 5/2- *Fort Lee Field Trip (1/2 grade 6)*
- 5/4- *Spring Concert grades 4 and 5*
- 5/10-11- *NJSLA Language Arts (Whole School)*
- 5/17-18- *NJSLA Math (Whole School)*
- 5/19-20- *NJSLA Science (Grade 5 only)*

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](#)

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 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

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)

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

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?](#)