

# The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue  
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

## Highland School Update

May 6, 2022

### NEW HIGHLAND INFORMATION:

Grade 3 and 6 students attended an assembly with the Director of Development of the **Umbrella**

**Organization**, which is a non-profit NJ Foster Care organization. As part of the mentoring program, the grade 3 and 6 students created blankets that were given to the Umbrella



Organization. The Director was so excited about the donation of all the handmade blankets that she drove up from Asbury Park to meet the students who made them. She spoke for 45 minutes and explained how these blankets will be given to the children who are put up for adoption and these blankets are usually one of the precious things that travel from Foster home to Foster home and into, hopefully, an adopted home one day. The story was touching, and I am so proud of Mrs. Scala and the students for making a positive impact for those in need.

### **2022 State Assessments (NJSLA): NEXT WEEK**

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 on time, fed, and coming off a good night's sleep.** For specific dates, testing times, and grade levels see the chart below.

<b>2022 NJSLA Testing Dates</b>			
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)	5/17 & 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>

### **SOAR (Summer Opportunities for Acceleration and Remediation)**

This July, Highland School will be offering summer academic classes to the students at Highland School through our **Summer Opportunities for Acceleration and Remediation (SOAR)** program. These classes are free to all Highland students, which is made possible by the State ESSER III Covid Relief funds. If you feel extra seat time will help your child for next year we would encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. Please read the letter linked below for more specific information.

- [SOAR Academy Sign Up - Summer 2022](#)

### **Incoming Grade 6 parent orientation (current 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents):**

There will be a parent presentation (parents only) on May 19<sup>th</sup>, in the Highland Media Center, at 6:00pm. This is an informational session for parents about the transition from an elementary program, to a true middle school program. Even though it is the same school, there are a lot of changes.

### **Give Back Days:**

The district calendar has been revised to give back unused snow days at the end of the year. The last day of school is now: 6/21. Early dismissal dates at the end of the year for students include: June 16,17,20,21.

### **Grade 6 YMCA trip:**

Grade 6 students will be going to the YMCA in late May (rain or shine). Permission slips were handed out and must be returned by May 13<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Scala at [kscala@mpsnj.org](mailto:kscala@mpsnj.org).

### **Penny Wars:**

Penny Wars, once again, was ridiculously successful and I cannot thank-you enough for your generosity. It is a fun event for the children with a lot of strategy involved. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade seized the week with the most points and earned a visit from the ice cream truck. With this last effort, we can now start the process of redesigning the art room and getting a kiln room as well. Adding pottery to the Highland – Godwin program has always been a goal of Ms. Bache and mine and we are excited to be taking the first steps to make it happen. By then end of the month, we will hopefully be placing an order for a Kiln.

### **Teacher of the Year (TOY):**

Each year, Highland School teachers nominate their colleagues for those they feel are deserving of special recognition. Nominations are brought to a large committee of former winners, parents and administration. Nominees are voted on and a winner is declared. The 2021-2022 Teacher of the year is Ms. Thiemann in 5 grade.

### **Field Day 2022 REMINDER:**

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 26<sup>th</sup>. 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. Students who are in the aftercare program will be at Highland School on this day until Godwin dismisses.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- 5/10-11- *NJSLA Language Arts (Whole School)*
- 5/13- *Highland Talent Show*
- 5/17-18- *NJSLA Math (Whole School)*
- 5/19-20- *NJSLA Science (Grade 5 only)*
- 5/26- *Highland Field Day (1/2 Day)*
- 5/30- *Memorial Day Off*
- 6/2- *Invention Convention*
- 6/7- *Panther Prowl*

## **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](#)

### **Important - Grade 6 Baby Pictures: Deadline April 30<sup>th</sup>**

The 6<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>**?

- 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](mailto:lawryastein@gmail.com), and include your child's name in the subject line. An email will also be forthcoming.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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@mpsni.org](mailto: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?](#)