

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Weekly Updates

September 9th 2022

I could have done without the rain on the very first day of school, but we got the kids in school and where they had to go. I thank-you for your patience. There are a lot of moving parts to opening up school that I feel like our parents did not have to deal with when we were in school, i.e.; technology, online consent forms, and it seems like more traffic. **Below are some reminders to make sure we are all on the same page.**

Student Drop-Off:

- Hopefully everyone knows where they are going at this point; Grade 3= playground, Grade 4= Back of School (door 5), Grade 5 = Gymnasium entrance, Grade 6 = Back of School (door 6)
- **Drop-Off Timeline:**
 - 8:00am- supervision provided at each entrance.
 - 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, students will be let into the school at 8:00am from their same regular entrance: grade 6 will then go to the cafeteria, grade 5 will be in the music room hallway, grade 3 and 4 will be stationed in their hallway outside their classrooms.

The Car Line:

- All across America the drop off car lines at elementary schools can be stressful. We have been doing okay so far considering over 300 students are being dropped off in a 20 minute span- THANK-YOU. Traffic is not backing up to the intersection of Prospect and Godwin as much.
 - **Reminders of things we can do to keep the car line moving:**
 - **Pull all the way up as far as you can go, then let out your child(ren).** Have student exit the vehicle on left side whenever possible (safer).
 - Have student water bottles and backpacks ready to go, like a paratrooper ready to jump out of a plane. When the car stops it's a "Go, Go, Go."
 - Pre hug and kiss your child prior to getting in the car. Those are important things, but safety of kids during drop off is too. We want to avoid cars passing in line as much as possible.
 - **If you find yourself U-turning anywhere, you are doing something illegal. Let's try not to do illegal things.**

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, or head to aftercare. There is limited supervision outside after school. Students who misbehave may be held accountable for their actions.

Students will be released from the same door they entered in the morning so we do not have a stampede going out of one door. Please arrange a spot for your child to meet you or your 'picker-upper'.

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 School Handbook 2022-2023](#)

Health Curriculum Presentation:

The revised Health Curriculum, which is now compliant with state standards, has been a catalyst for some great discussions. To be as transparent as possible, because I know curriculum templates can be a little cryptic, the PTA is going to host a presentation with Ms. Bache and I on the new health curriculum and what instruction will look like in the classroom so parents can make an informed decision on what specific topics they would like to opt their child(ren) out from. All Curriculum can be found on the district website www.mpsnj.org under the Academics Tab -> curriculum.

- **Topic:** Revised Elementary Health Curriculum
- **Date:** September 27, 2022
- **Location:** Highland School Media Center
- **Time:** 7:30pm

Technology Consent Forms:

For students to use technology they must fill out the consent forms on the Power School Parent Portal. Many parents have already done this—Thank-you. If you are still receiving emails from the district about filling in consent forms that means you still have to complete the forms and verify contact information. To update your contact and sign the consent forms please log into your parent Power School account and click on “Forms” on the left hand menu.

Back to School Night:

Please mark your calendars; Highland Back-to-School Night (BTSN) will take place on Wednesday September 21st at 6:30pm. BTSN will be in person. More specific information will come out next week.

Highland Picture Day:

Highland Picture Day will also be on October 7, 2022. Individual pictures and class pictures will be outside. More information to follow.

Sincerely,
Peter Galasso, Principal

