

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Updates

Nov. 28, 2022

Grade 5 and 6 Winter Concert:

The Winter Concert for grades 5 and 6 is Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:00pm in the Highland Gymnasium. **All 5th and 6th grade parents, please read the information in the link below for arrival times and attire.**

- [Highland Winter Concert 2022](#)

Absences:

There has been an uptick in school absences in large part due to a lot of different bug's going around. Whatever it is, a lot of kids have been getting sick. This is a reminder that if a student is sick and goes to the doctor, a doctor's note will excuse absences due to sickness specifically outlined for the dates in the note (not beyond). If you do not go to the doctor, which is ok too, students are allowed 12 unexcused absences for any reason.

Art Room Kiln Update:

Whenever money is fundraised, I like to be as transparent as possible. The project of creating a Kiln Room with storage (up to code, of course) has been bid on and I am happy to say we have finally accepted a fair bid. We have a construction meeting this week to go over the details and timeline. This is a huge step and we are excited.

End of Marking Period/Report Cards:

Thank-you for the feedback regarding report card issues. A lot of the issues had to do with the APP and/or logging in. I hope the technology department was able to fix any issues that were brought to them. However, report cards for some can be stressful enough without mixing technology into it. Also, report cards are supposed to be a point of timely constructive conversation between parent and child. Based on feedback from staff, parents, and going through it in my own life, report cards will be hard copy moving forward for the rest of the year. The report card will come home in an envelope, which will have to be signed and returned. This will guarantee timely conversations regarding performance. There is something about a child handing their parent a report card and the parent opening it in front of them. Maybe it is a rite of passage, but it is not the same experience looking on an APP together. Parents will still be able to log in to see report cards/grades as well.

Upcoming Events:

11/30- 12/2: *Early Dismissal (Parent/Teacher Conferences)*

12/2: *Midland Park Tree Lighting with advanced Highland Band Performance – 6:00pm*

12/7: *Highland Winter Concert (Grades 5 and 6) – 7:00pm (students must arrive early –see above)*

12/12-12/16: *PTA Sponsored Holiday Store*

12/23: *Half day for students/ Winter Classroom Party*

OLD BUT ALWAYS RELEVANT INFORMATION:

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](#)

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

Godwin-Highland Parent/Teacher Conferences are fast approaching, Nov. 30 – Dec. 2. Conferences will be held on the following days/night;

Conference Dates	
November 30	Daytime Conferences
December 1	Evening Conferences
December 2	Daytime Conferences

Enrollment has fortunately went up and conference spots are limited for grades 4-5 based on the teamed and departmentalized nature of the schedule. Teachers will reach out shortly regarding conferences. Grade 6 conferences will be scheduled by the teachers based on need. If a parent has a concern, please reach out their child's homeroom teacher to schedule a conference.

Clubs and Activities:

- Highland Clubs are starting their preliminary interest meetings. There are 15 clubs/activities running this year at Highland. If your child(ren) are interested, please have them attend the interest meetings which are announced over the loud speaker. Or, if interested, have the student email the club advisor. Clubs, their descriptions, and supervisors can be found on the school website under activities and at the following link.
 - [Highland Club Descriptions and Supervisors 2022](#)

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'.

Sincerely,

Peter Galasso, Principal

