

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Updates

January 27, 2023

Marking Period 2 Report Cards:

Marking period 2 report cards will be distributed two ways this marking period;

1. **Hard copies** will be given to all students in an envelope. Please look at the report cards, sign the envelope and have your child return that same envelope to the homeroom teacher on Monday. Based on feedback, we feel that the hard copy option will be a welcomed option by parents.
 - a. ***The hard copy report cards are 2 sided. Please make sure you look at both sides. All 6th grade teacher comments are located on the back of the report card.***
2. Report Cards can still be viewed via the **Power School Parent Portal**. The website, rather than the APP, is the better option to view report cards virtually, as well as historical grades and attendance. The APP is convenient, but is more geared to real-time reporting and does not sync with the teacher gradebook as effectively as the website.

Please look at the report card with your child(ren). If you have any questions, please talk to your child first to clarify, and then reach out to your child's teacher as needed.

Grades 3-5 Standards Based Report Cards:

In grades 3-5, students not only get a grade, but also a proficiency score dedicated to a standard, or set of standards. This provides a lot of information to a parent, which we know can be overwhelming.

- **GRADES:** The **Marking Period Grade** is meant to give parents an overall snapshot on how their child is doing with regards to not only academic skills, but also participation, homework, classwork, etc.. The course grade represents a student's total body of work for a course in a marking period.
- **STANDARDS: Standards**, on the other hand, measure proficiency specific to a skill or set of skills related to state standards. This tells parents where students are in mastering specific skills for their child's grade level. Students receive a standard score only after they are specifically assessed in that standard. As the standard gets more complex, a child's score may go down or up throughout the year based on how they are doing at the current time. Further explanations of the standards and proficiency can be found at: [Grade 3-5 Standard Report Card Guides](#) . Below is a quick guide on what grades and standards mean on a report card.

Standards: Levels of Performance

4: Exceeds Expectations – Student is mastering skills beyond their grade level for this standard.

3: Meets Expectation – Student is at grade level for this standard.

2: Approaching Expectation – Student is making progress towards grade level.

1: Does Not Meet Expectation – Is not at grade level.

N/A: Student has not been exposed to the standard yet.

Grades:

A = Excellent Achievement- Difficult to earn.

B = Above average achievement- Should be celebrated.

C = Average achievement- Performing on grade level.

D = Below average achievement- Child may need extra help/ interventions to understand concept or skill

F = Considered failing

***If you have any questions about your child's report card, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Kiln Room Update:

The kiln is in place and we did our first test fire. The kiln's temperature went above 2000 degrees and takes about 7 hours to cycle through. It then takes another 7-8 hours to cool down so we can open the lid, which makes sense because who would want to open up a lid in a 2000 degree oven. These are things I never knew, but find really interesting. Clay, tools, and glaze have been ordered and we are looking to start ceramics as soon as possible in grade 6 and 4 and then see how far we get with other grades. Still to come is a sink upgrade and outfitting the new Art storage area to make sure everything can be stored efficiently for easy access. The art room services over 550 students, so storage and supply is at a premium. Thank-you again for all the support in this endeavor.



L.E.A.D begins in 5th grade:

What used to be called D.A.R.E when we were younger, is now called L.E.A.D (Law Enforcement Against Drugs). Police Officers will come into speak to our 5th graders, which not only educates them on some important topics, but continues to help students get to know the police as people. We are lucky to have Sgt. Junta, Officer Berninger and SRO Tillson working with our 5th graders. L.E.A.D will begin the first week of February.

Midland Park Municipal Alliance Visits grades 3 and 4:

The Midland Park Alliance has worked with grades 3 and 4 students in Highland annually for many years. In grades 3 and 4, a guest speaker will speak to students regarding the dangers of smoking and other drugs. These presentations will begin the 2nd week of February.

Highland School Spelling Bee:

Every year we send a Highland Representative to the county bee. Students have participated in the preliminary round in their classrooms and now the winners from each class go to the Highland finals where they compete in front of their peers until there is just one spelling champion. The final round of the spelling bee will take place January 31st in the Media Center.

Upcoming Events:

- 1/27- Report Cards (hard copy and online)
- 1/31- Highland School Spelling be final round
- 2/1- Talent Show Rehearsals
- 2/3- Highland School Talent Show- 7:00pm Highland Gym
- 2/6- Early Dismissal –PIZZA SALE (1,2,3,4,7,8,5,6)
- 2/9- Mill Gardens Trip grade 5
- 2/20- PRESIDENTS WEEK OFF BEGINS

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](#)

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'.