

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Updates

March 15, 2023

Ceramics at Highland:

The 6th grade ceramics unit has started; Very exciting. Students are making little pots. Once created they have to air dry, then they get fired in the kiln, then glazed, and then fired again. Since the Kiln gets to over 2000 degrees, it takes a day for it to cool in between each firing.



North Jersey Spelling Bee:

Congratulations to Xavier McCarthy (5th grade) for representing the Highland School in the North Jersey Spelling Bee at Bergen Community College. Xavier made it through 3 grueling rounds of spelling to be 1 of the top 14 spellers in North Jersey (competing against 7th and 8th graders as well). We are very proud of him. Please congratulate him when you see him.

UPDATE: Family Life/Sex Ed- Resources:

The Family Life/Sex. Ed. unit is going to begin the week of April 17th. Not to rehash everything, but below are important points that we want to review so we are all on the same page prior to the lessons being taught:

- The Family Life/Sex. Ed. lessons are **taught in 5th grade only**, which is the very end of when we are allowed to teach the standards.
- There are **only 2 lessons**, which will take place over 2 class periods.
 - Lesson 1: Personal Growth and Development (Puberty)
 - Lesson 2: Family Life/Sex. Education (Pregnancy and Parenting)
- **Girls and boys are broken up into separate groups**. Boys will learn about boys and girls will learn about girls.
- Information on the standards being taught, which were discussed in the Fall meeting, as well as, the actual PowerPoints and resources that will be used in class, can be found on the Highland School Curriculum Portion of the website → [Highland School Health and PE Curriculum Website](#)
Here you will find:
 - The adopted Midland Park Curriculum for Comprehensive Health & Physical Education (CHPE)

- A scope and sequence of the Health and PE standards by unit, including when standards are being taught by grade level.
- The Fall Parent Presentation which breaks down the standards and objectives for the 5th grade family Life/Sex Ed. Units.
- **(NEW)** The PowerPoints being used in class, including; verbiage, informational videos, definitions, etc.
- Highland School Family Life/Sex. Ed. Opt-Out Form.

The resources that were developed were based on the feedback from the fall meeting; the positive points and also the concerns. We tried to standardize the information so we are as transparent as possible (definitions, links to informational videos, etc. are all embedded in the slide shows so you can see them). It is in this way you will know exactly what is going to be formally taught and discussed in class so you can make the best decision possible for your family. I would encourage you to visit the Highland CHPE website above and look at the PowerPoints and other resources that are available.

If you feel that the educational information outlined in the PowerPoint lessons are not appropriate for your child at this time, please fill out the **Opt-Out Form**, which is on the website as well, and return to the Highland School main office by **April 10, 2023** so alternate plans can be made for your child. Please read the Opt-Out Form carefully.

Battle of the Books Winners:

Ms. Carr’s annual Battle of the Books took place this past week. Groups battled for supremacy answer really specific questions about books that were on the read list. After over 2 hours of battle, victors emerged. Congratulations to the “Sapphire Birds” (1st Place) and the “Goddesses of the Book” (2nd Place). They will now represent Highland School in the County Competition. Highland School has won the county competition twice.



Pictured Above: 1st place; L. Alhoms, M. Niebles, K. Salmon, J. Reyes



Pictured Right: 2nd place; P. Toro, M. Libretta, P. Cruz, A. Branca-Boylan

Drop off procedures:

Just two procedures to focus on please:

- Please do not drop off students in front of the gym entrance.
- Pull all the way up if you can, past the crosswalk, before dropping off so we can fit more cars in the drop off line.

Read Across America:

The goal of this day is to celebrate reading and associate it with fun dress up days. Part of the Read Across America week is an assembly, but also DEAR (Drop Everything And Read), which is done every day for 10-15 minutes in the hallways.



Upcoming Events:

- 3/14: Pi Day
- 3/16: Invention Convention (6:30pm-8:30pm) at Godwin School
- 3/28: Chinese Acrobats Assembly (Cultural Awareness)
- 4/3: April Break Begins
- 4/10: Beginning of 4th marking period
- 4/13: SEL Assembly: Psychologist, Actor, Poet- Mykee Fowlin
- 4/14: Report Cards Distributed
- 4/21: Highland School Musical; Annie – 6:30pm in Highland Gymnasium

OLD BUT ALWAYS RELEVANT INFORMATION:

State Testing:

As a reminder, state testing (NJSLA) will be in the Spring. Although May seems far away, we all know it is just right around the corner with how time flies. Below are NJSLA testing dates. Please do your best to have students in school on these days. It is very much appreciated so it limits make-up testing.

| NJSLA 2022-2023 Testing Dates <i>Highland School</i> | | | |
|---|------------|--|---------------|
| Assessment Name | Grade | Testing Time | Testing Dates |
| NJSLA: Language Arts/Literacy | Grades 3-6 | 75 - 90 minutes ea. (2 sessions) | May 16- 17 |
| NJSLA Mathematics | Grades 3-6 | 60 minutes ea. (3 sessions) (total 180 minutes) | May 23-24 |
| NJSLA Science | Grade 5 | 45 minutes ea. (4 sessions) (180 total minutes) | May 18-19 |

Reminder: Important Contacts for Highland School:

Technology Department:

- If you are having issues logging onto the Parent Portal, receiving emails, or your child is having an issue with their Chromebook or subscription log-ons, we have a technology staff member that can assist you. For all Highland technology and log on issues, please contact Mr. James Thumm; jthumm@mpsni.org

Nurses Office:

- If your child has a medical issue, needs medication, or you have doctor's notes to excuse absences, please contact Mrs. Juliana Lisi, the School Nurse; jlisi@mpsni.org.

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. Your child should not be playing outside if you are not present afterschool. 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'. Those who walk home, please set a time for arrival home, and those who go to aftercare should head right over to Godwin so we do not have to send out a search party if they are late.