

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Updates

May 2, 2023

Highland School Musical – “Annie”

To say that our 5th and 6th graders are talented is an understatement. The production of “Annie” was not only fun to watch as our students performed the classic musical on stage April 21st, but the performance also gave us a glimpse into the very exciting future of the districts Performing Arts Program. As these students get older and hopefully continue to cultivate their craft, the performances will only get better and better. For this cast, the sky is the limit. We are very proud of their accomplishments. A dozen Mill Gardens residents attended the day time performance and were singing along and laughing at the Great Depression jokes. At the end of the performance a 101 year old Mill Gardens resident, Doris, attending the show summed it up best, “This was more enjoyable than Broadway.”



Open House:

Thank-you to all those who attended Open House at Highland School. I think I saw some of you there for over an hour roaming the hallways looking at student work and popping in and out of classrooms. Thank-you for being good sports and honoring your child(ren)'s school work. It was nice to see the children leading their willing parents around.

2022-2023 School Calendar Revision:

A district e-blast was sent out on May 1st regarding the Board approved revised school calendar. The two unused snow days will be given back on May 30th (extending Memorial Day vacation) and June 22nd (shortening the school year). See more specific information below;

- May 30th – School Closes (Unused Snow Day give back)
- June 16, 19, 20, and 21 half days
- June 21st – Last Day for Students

Field Trips and other costs:

Field Trips have been more expensive this year as bussing is easily the chief cost of the trip. The PTA generously contributes to the field trips to help cut down the cost and then Highland budgets for some bussing as well to help keep the costs of some of the more expensive trips down as well. We do not want a student missing out on a field trip due to cost. If a parent has any concerns over the cost of a field trip and needs help, please contact myself or Mrs. Scala. All conversations will be kept confidential. We do not want a financial hardship to prevent one of our students from experiencing any activity in Highland School.

Field Day 2023:

The Godwin and Highland Field Day will take place on Friday May 26th. Highland students will matriculate through 16 different stations over the course of three hours to the beat and music of DJ Achilles, with the finale being the 6th grade relay race. After students are sweaty and tired, they are all yours. Students will be dismissed at 12:30pm to start their Memorial Day vacation.

- Highland Start Time: 9:15am
- Highland End Time: 12:15am (Students dismissed at 12:30pm)

Parents are welcome to come and watch but only parent volunteers will be allowed on the field. Please stay behind the fences and/or on the sidewalks.

NJSLA Testing: May 15 -24th (State Assessments)

This year, in addition to regular testing, we are also a Field Test School. A date has been added to the testing calendar to accommodate this field test. Testing Schedule for May is below.

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 15- 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

*** *Students who are absent will be scheduled for makeup sessions as soon as possible upon their return.*

Ball Room Dancing Club:

We actually have over 16 clubs in Highland School, one of which is the Ballroom Dancing Club. These students meet with the supervisor, Ms. Audino, at least twice a month. Not only does the Dance Club perform at the annual talent show, but they do produce videos throughout the course of the year. Video: ["Rock Around the Clock"](#)

Midland Park Powder Run to fight cancer:

On May 21, 2023 from 8:30am-10:30am Midland Park will host its Second Annual Color Fun Run. This is a family friendly event for all ages and no experience is required. Participants will walk or run one mile through 4 interactive stations; 3 color stations where you will be sprayed with color powder and a fourth bubble station. Please help us in the fight against breast cancer by signing up.

- [Color Run Information and Sign Up](#)

Upcoming Events:

- 5/3: Spring Concert - 7:00pm (4th and 5th grade chorus and beginning/advanced band)
- 5/4: Turtleback Zoo Field Trip grade 3
- 5/9: Battle of the Books County Competition- Good Luck to the participants
- 5/15: NJSLA Test begins (see schedule above)
- 5/17: Progress Reports distributed as needed
- 5/21: Color Run – see information above
- 5/24: 6th Grade Parent Orientation
- 5/26: Field Day (1/2 Day for everyone)
- 5/29: Day Off Memorial Day
- 5/30: Snow Day Give Back- no school
- 6/1: 3rd grade Parent Orientation – 6:00pm in Media Center
- 6/6: Panther Prowl
- 6/9: 6th Grade Dance
- 6/14: 6th Grade YMCA Trip (Permission Slip soon- 7:30am -4:30pm)
- 6/14: 5th Grade Field Trip to Museum Village

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. 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.