

# The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue  
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

## Highland School Weekly Updates

September 15<sup>th</sup> 2023

### **IMPORTANT: Back to School Night CHANGE:**

On the originally scheduled Back-to-School Night of 9/28, unfortunately, there is a conflict in the Municipal Parking lot and we do not want to interfere with the Town Council meeting. Please mark your calendars; **Highland Back-to-School Night (BTSN) will now take place on Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.** More specific information will come out as we get closer to the date including a schedule of the night. I apologize for the change especially to those who arranged babysitters for that night. Believe me I get it.

**So we are on the same page please read below for procedural information.**

### **Nurses Contact:**

Mrs. Patty Trava has returned as the Highland School nurse. Should you have any student related health questions, or need to submit vaccinations, and/or doctor's notes, please contact Mrs. Trava at [HLNurse@mpsnj.org](mailto:HLNurse@mpsnj.org).

### **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.**
- Parking in the morning is limited. If avoidable, please try not to park in the municipal lot so staff can park and come into the building on time. This usually clears up after the first couple of days naturally.

**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 Parent Handbook 2023-2024](#)

**Highland Picture Day:**

Highland Picture Day will be on October 5, 2023. Please start getting outfits ready if that is your thing.

**Health Curriculum Reminder:**

The new Health Curriculum was implemented last year successfully and after implementation we did not get one complaint. The teachers did a nice, age appropriate job with the material. To make it easier for parents, the Sex. Ed/Family Life curriculum is only taught in Grade 5 Health in the Spring. All other grades do not incorporate any of the controversial standards. For more information including curriculum, the presentations themselves, as well as, the opt out form, please visit:

- [Health Resources 2023-2024](#)

If you have any questions, please contact your child's health teacher, or the main office.

**The Midland Park Public Library:**

All children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a responsible caregiver at all times. A responsible caregiver is defined as anyone over the age of 14. Children 10-12 years old can be left by themselves for a maximum of 2 hours. Caregivers are responsible for their children's behavior at all times whether the caregiver is present at the library or not. The library cannot provide long or short term childcare of any type and the staff will not function as a babysitter.

Here is the complete document: [Public Library Child Visitor Policy](#)

Sincerely,  
Peter Galasso, Principal

