

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Weekly Updates

October 19, 2023

HEADS-UP: Road Construction:

Monday, October 23 through October 25th the exit from the Library to Franklin Ave will be closed for construction. During drop off and pick up, we will have the Library cut through closed to prevent cars from going down and having to turn around and come back up. We will also post no parking signs along one side of Highland Ave to prevent double parking and leave enough room for cars to pass both ways. Attached is a letter from the town engineer to the residents about the whole project.

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/17B5BH8fXI-ND87QXskDcG73qXu5HB1IX/view?usp=sharing>

Highland Musical Auditions:

The Highland School Musical is open to 5th and 6th graders. Students will audition for lead roles and support roles so they can take part in the musical. There are also Stage Crew opportunities available for those who prefer behind the scenes rather than the spotlight. To audition, please click the link below. For questions, please contact the Musical Director, Mrs. O'Connor. LOconnor@mpsny.org. The Highland Musical will be performed around the High School Musical. Right now the date is tentative, but will be performed in the Spring.

- [Highland Musical Auditions Flyer](#)

Student Academic Progress: Marking Period 1

Progress Reports went home for grades 3 and 4. In grades 5 and 6, parents should check the portal to look at the teacher gradebook where they can see 'real time' grades. Any concerns beyond grades would have been relayed to you in writing. The marking period ends November 8th. Report Cards will go home November 17th.

Parent Teacher Conferences:

Godwin-Highland Parent/Teacher Conferences are fast approaching, Nov. 1 – Dec. 2. Conferences will be held on the following days/night;

Conference Dates	
November 1	Daytime Conferences
November 2	Evening Conferences
November 3	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. Grade 6 conferences will be scheduled by the teachers based on need. If a parent has a concern, please reach out to their child's homeroom teacher to schedule a conference.


MPEPTA Fall Apparel Sale:

The MPEPTA Online Fall Apparel Sale is now open! Lots of great items like tie dye sweatshirts, pajama pants, hoodies, zip-ups and more! Please visit our store at the link below.

- <https://www.schoolteamstores.com/midland-park.htm>

****Place your order by midnight on Monday October 23 for FREE delivery to the schools.****

PE Instagram:

Highland School is proud to present a **NEW INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT** from their **PE Department!** Mrs. Dolianitis and Mr. DeCarlo are excited to announce 2PEs_inapod. Through this Instagram account, members of our Midland Park community will see what is going on in the gym. From the units being taught to the incredible fitness equipment being used, you will get a glimpse into the world inside the Highland Gymnasium. QR code to join 



Social Media Information:

Social Media and texting Apps are increasingly involved in peer conflict that at times boils over into school. A new Social Media platform has increasingly been popping up called 'Discord'. To learn more about Discord, please click on the link below (video and information).

- [Parents' Ultimate Guide to Discord - Common Sense Media](#)

While we are on the topic of Social Media, click the link below for a brief synopsis about all the popular Social Media Apps and sites our students are on. To learn more about each item, please click the links.

- [Parents' Ultimate Guide to Social Media](#)

Halloween at Highland: Tuesday 10/31/23

- Halloween is fast approaching. If your child chooses to celebrate Halloween by dressing up in school, please make sure that their costumes abide by the following;
 - Students **should not have to change** into the costume at school.
 - The costume must **fit properly** and cannot be too long; cannot violate the dress code.
 - No belly buttons, underpants/bra's
 - Leave **weapons, handcuffs, clubs** or other **props** that accompany the costume at home.
 - **Masks and extensive face paint are not allowed**-we have to be able to recognize students and we do not want excessive face paint smearing all over.
 - The costume you wear must **allow you to sit, stand, or move** around the classroom and building without difficulty.
 - **Please, the costume should be appropriate for an elementary school.** Highland actually serves K-6 students, please consider the age of the students when choosing a costume to wear to school.

Classroom parties will begin at 2:00 pm. Homeroom representatives will set up games and activities for the children to partake in. If you are a homeroom rep (thank-you) and need a holiday snack list, please visit the Highland website and go to shortcuts on the right- hand side for approved holiday snacks.

Cub Scout Flyer:

- [FLYER- Cub Scout Activities this Month](#)

Upcoming Events:

10/16: Read-A-Thon begins

10/27: Trunk or Treat

10/31: Halloween Class Parties

11/1 – 11/3: 12:30pm Dismissal for students- Parent Teacher Conferences

- 11/2 – Evening Conferences

11/9-11/10: Schools Closed NJEA Convention

11/17: Report Cards Distributed and On-Line

Old but always relevant 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.

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](#)

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.

Sincerely,
Peter Galasso, Principal

