

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Weekly Updates

April 18, 2024

The Highland School Musical: Grease Jr. (school edition)

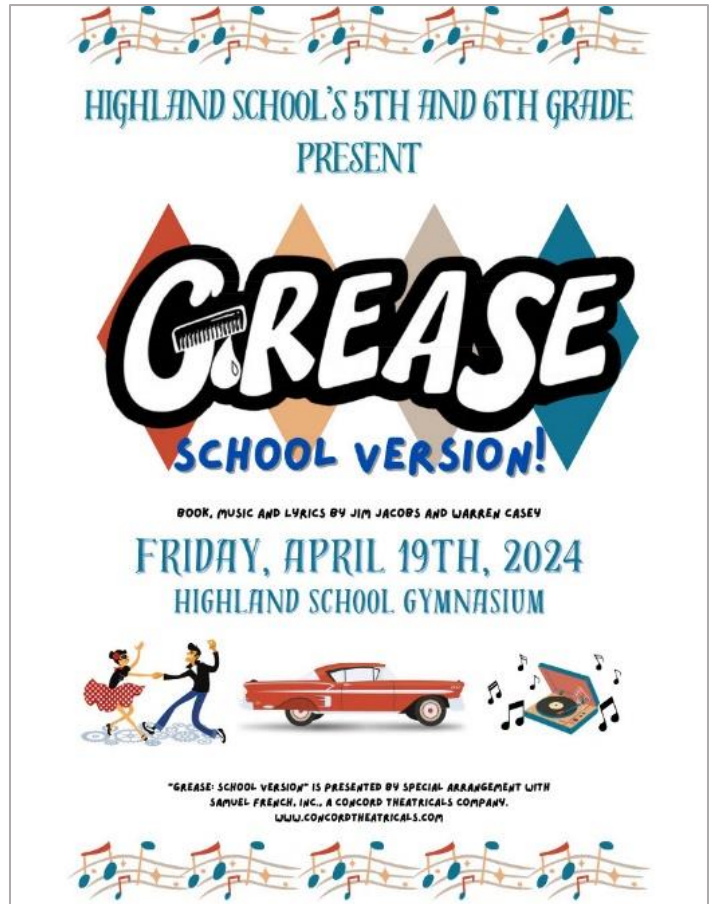
The Highland School's Musical, Grease Jr., will take place on Friday April 19th in the Highland Gymnasium at 6:30pm. Mrs. O'Connor, the crew, some parents, and the students have been working very hard to make this production happen. The students will also perform for Godwin in the morning and Highland in the afternoon. The excitement is building and we cannot wait for the show as we have some very talented young kids on stage.

Family Life Grade 5:

The Health teachers, Mrs. Dolianitis and Mr. DeCarlo, are planning to teach their Family Life Lessons in May, which occurs in our 5th grade classes only. Students will be separated by gender. Linked below are the curriculum, the resources with the Power Points we use to teach the class, as well as, the **OPT-OUT FORM** if parents would rather not have their children take part in the 2 classes.

- [Health and PE Curriculum Resources](#)
- [Opt Out Form](#)

IMPORTANT: Hard copy **OPT-OUT FORMS** (Above) have to be handed in for students to be opted out of any part of the health curriculum. Please click the link above for the Opt out form and return to the main office or PE teacher.



Field Day T-Shirts: DUE FRIDAY APRIL 19th

This is a reminder that Field Day Tee Shirt orders are due **FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH**. Please complete the order form via cheddar up as soon as possible. Highland School will also use these T-Shirt sizes for the Centennial T-shirts each student will get to celebrate the Highland Centennial (100 year anniversary of the building).

- [Godwin and Highland Field Day T-shirts 2024 - Cheddar Up](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Field Day Chair Lauren Sikora; laurenfino@gmail.com.

Take Your Child to Work Day (TYCTWD – April 25th (Form Due April 22nd))

The State of New Jersey encourages students to recognize Take Your Child to Work Day (Excused absence). If your child will be participating in TYCTWD please fill out the form below and return to the main office/homeroom teacher. (Hard copy also given to students on April 10th)

- [Take Your Child to Work Day Form '24](#)

Bergen County Contest Winner:
Congratulations to **Sylvia Eliya**, grade 5, for placing second in all of Bergen County for the “Species on the Edge” contest. Sylvia submitted an essay and drew a picture regarding an endangered species, specifically the American Kestrel, the smallest Falcon in the U.S., whose Meadowlands habitat is being destroyed. We are proud of Sylvia, not just for her accomplishment, but for the motivation to engage learning beyond school on her own time. She is a very talented young lady.



Best Communities in Music Education 2023-2024:

Midland Park has earned recognition for being one of the best communities for music education in the nation. We are proud of the Music Program; thank-you to the teachers, the students, the parents and BOE for the support of all our Music programs. It helps us offer a well-rounded education for all our students.

Environmental Club (Recycling Initiative):

Mr. Hershberger and the Environmental Club will be recycling Dunkin Donuts Coffee bags and Little Bites bags. Instead of throwing these out you can send them to school and we collect and recycle them. Boxes are in the cafeteria and Mr. Hershberger’s room.

Links are below:

- Dunkin: [Dunkin Donut Coffee Bags Recycling](#)
- Little Bites: [Little Bites Recycling](#)



Grade 5 → 6 Immunizations: (IMPORTANT)

Students entering grade 6 in September need to have certain immunizations and/or formal exemptions from those immunizations to be in school. This is a state statute that we have to abide by. Please click the link below for more information.

- [Incoming grade 6 Immunization Form 2024](#)

Anxiety/Mental Health Workshop Information:

Spring can be tough for kids and parents as we try to wrap up school and start doing more outside as the nice weather becomes more common. This can become a stressful time for kids and parents. In the winter the PTA had a presenter talk about Anxiety in children and coping skills. Below are the presentations and would encourage you to take a look. Some of what you read here might make sense to you now, or prepare you for things possibly to come down the road. Obviously we hope not, but these kids are growing up in a very strange world.

- [Anxiety in Kids Presentation 2024](#)
- [Strengthen the Mind Presentation 2024](#)

MP Police and Highland School Functions:

The Midland Park police are engaging the community in their annual Torch Run this June, as well as, offering a week long Jr. Police Academy in the Summer to grade 5 and 6 students. Please read below for information on both.

➔ Junior Police Academy (Grade 5 and 6)

- The Junior Police Academy is running again this summer and they are looking for cadets. Information was handed out in school, but you can also register with the link below. First come, first serve.
 - Flyer: [Junior Police Academy Flyer](#)
 - Registration: [Police Academy Application](#)

➔ Annual Torch Run:

- Midland Park Police Department and in conjunction with the Special Olympics of N.J., request the Highland School students to participate in the Torch Run to support the Special Olympics. Please click the link below for more information.
 - Torch Run Info: [Torch Run Information and Registration](#)

Confidence Closet:

Please help support the Confidence Closet! Students in Highland School will be collecting items to give to a school in Paterson. You can donate items such as toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, or soap. Any hygiene-related items are welcome. There will be a box by the main office and collection of these items is ongoing throughout the school year. You can make a difference! Donate today!

- [Confidence Closet Project Link](#)

Community Events:

The wonderful thing about Midland Park are all the opportunities for the kids, not just in school, but through the community. Please read below:

- **Midland Park Town Cheerleading and Football Registration** for the Fall:
 - [Cheerleading and Football Registration Form](#)
- **Troop 97741 Bronze Award**- Please help us help the animals!
 - How you can help –click link: [Can you help us, help other animals?](#)
- **Color Fun Run/ Walk** – May 19th (Community Event to CURE BREAST CANCER)
 - [Fun Run/Walk Registration](#)

Upcoming Events:

- 4/19: Highland Musical- 3 performances- Godwin 9:00am / Highland 1:15pm / Night 6:30pm
- 4/19: Report Cards Issued (Hard copy and on Power School)
- 4/23: New Superintendent Meet and Greet – 7:00pm MPHS
- 4/24: Spring Concert: Grade 4 and 5 chorus / Beginning Band, Advanced Band, and Jazz Band
- 4/25: TYCTWD
- 4/29: Teacher Appreciation Week begins. (Maker Space closed on 4/29)
- 5/14: NJSLA-Language Arts Literacy State assessment (Whole School)
- 5/15: NJSLA-Language Arts Literacy State assessment (Whole School)
- 5/16: NJSLA-Science State assessment (Grade 5 only)
- 5/17: NJSLA-Science State assessment (Grade 5 only)
- 5/21: NJSLA-Math State assessment (Whole School)
- 5/22: NJSLA-Math State assessment (Whole School)
- 5/24: Field Day (pending snow day give backs)
- 5/27: No School – Memorial Day

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 Ptrava@mpsni.org.

Grade 6 End of Year Privileges:

An email regarding 6th grade privileges went out to all 6th grade parents. If you did not see it please click the links below. This only applies to grade 6 students.

- <https://highland.mpsni.org/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=97051868>
- <https://highland.mpsni.org/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=97051870>

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.

Make-Up Work:

The weather is changing and as it gets colder we all spend more time cooped up inside with the windows closed. This is the time of year where kids begin getting sick. This is also the time when many families travel. If a student misses school this is typically the protocol:

If a student is sick:

Parents may request work from the teacher. All we ask is that if you do request work from the teacher it gets picked up by the end of the day so it is not just sitting on the bench overnight. Most work, especially in the upper grades can be found on the Google Classroom.

If students go on vacation, teachers are not obligated to provide work, but may provide some they think is necessary or beneficial. It is very difficult for a teacher to put a weeks worth of learning together for a vacation, especially since plans are augmented all

Students who do miss school are typically afforded the same amount of time to make up work. For example; missed 2 days, student have 2 days to make up the work.

Highland Instagram: @highlandschoolmp

We are over 120 followers on the Highland Instagram. Ms. Carr and the teachers will post pictures and news from Highland on the Instagram routinely. If you enjoy Instagram and would like to follow Highland please scan the QR code to the right.

Sincerely,

Peter Galasso, Principal

