

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Weekly Updates

May 17, 2024

Highland School Centennial:

May 30, 2024 will mark the 100th anniversary of when the first cornerstone was laid for the Highland School. The building is turning 100 years old. To celebrate and commemorate this event Highland School is doing the following:

- Centennial T-Shirts (designed by Highland students) have been purchased for everyone in the school to be worn on May 30th. **These will be handed out on May 21st.**
- A Centennial Bench has been purchased that will be placed over a time capsule that is being created by each homeroom.
- There will be a presentation in school for the students, as well as, a birthday celebration with a cupcake for each student and teacher.

REMAINING STATE TESTING BLOCK: Please have students get a good night's sleep, eat breakfast, and arrive with Chromebook charged.

- 5/21: State Test Math (Grades 3-6)
- 5/22: State Test Math (Grades 3-6)
- 5/23 – 5/31: Make Up Testing as needed

PTA General Meeting: Monday May 20th at 3:00pm

The PTA will be honoring the 2024 Bergen County Teachers of the Year: Mrs. Allison Kilgallen and Mrs. Jean Swanson. Faculty, parents, and even their students are encouraged to stop by to celebrate this enormous accomplishment with these outstanding educators. The PTA will also be honoring Mrs. Kathleen LePage for her well-deserved retirement, and MPEPTA's very own Darlene Kakolewski, our outgoing Treasurer.

- Invitation Link: [PTA Invitation May 20, 2024](#)

Grade 6 Parent Orientation (parents of current 5th graders)

Even though it is the same school there are a lot of changes from 5th to 6th grade that I would like to discuss with 5th grade parents. The Orientation will be held in the Highland Media Center on **Tuesday, June 4th at 6:00pm.**

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](#)

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:

- **Color Fun Run/ Walk** – May 19th (Community Event to CURE BREAST CANCER)
 - [Fun Run/Walk Registration](#)

Upcoming Events:

- 5/20: PTA General Meeting 3:00pm Highland School
- 5/22: Grade 5 LEAD Party after school at 3:00pm
- 5/24 - 5/28 – NO SCHOOL (EXTENDED MEMORIAL DAY) – snow day givebacks
- 5/29: Harlem Wizards Game – 7:00pm – Midland Park High School
- 5/30: Highland School Centennial Celebration (In school assembly)
- 5/31: Field Day (Student Early Dismissal)
- 6/3: Student versus Teacher Battle of the Books (in school assembly)
- 6/4: Grade 6 YMCA Field Trip- be here 7:30am
- 6/4: Grade 3 and 4 Recycling Assembly in School (Grades 3 and 4)
- 6/4: Grade 6 Parent Orientation (For parents of grade 5) – 6:00pm in the Highland Media Center
- 6/5: Grade 4-Mrs. Lelinho Ropes Course Field Trip
- 6/6: Grade 3 Parent Orientation (For current 2nd grade parents)- 6:00pm, Highland Media Center
- 6/7: Rain Date for Field Day
- 6/10: Grade 4- Ms. Abballe Ropes Course Field Trip
- 6/11: Grade 6 Field Trip to the Liberty Science Center
- 6/11: Enrichment Program Field Trip to LG Exploratorium
- 6/12: Grade 5 Field Trip to Museum Village
- 6/13: Student Council Field Trip to Tamerlaine Animal Sanctuary
- 6/14: Grade 6 Dance at the Firehouse (6pm – 9pm)
- 6/14: Band Clinic trip to MPHS for grades 5 and 6
- 6/18: Grade 4-Ms. Audino’s Ropes Course Field Trip
- 6/21: (half day for students) Class Parties (11:15am-12:15pm)
- 6/21: 6th grade BBQ (10:00am – 12:20pm)
- 6/24: (half day for students) Grade 6 Promotion (7:00pm in the Highland Gymnasium)
- 6/25: (half day for students) Last Day of School / Grade 6 Clap Out 12:20pm

Old, but always relevant information:

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.

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

