


August 2012

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2012-13 MEAL PRICES Breakfast \$1.25 Grades K-5 Lunch \$1.95 MS & HS Lunch \$2.20	MARCHING BAND CAMP July 30-Aug. 1 → 8am-8pm <i>Welcome Back Highlands RAMS!</i>	1	2	3	4
5	FOOTBALL MINI CAMP 6-9pm → Band Boosters 7pm	MARCHING BAND CAMP 8am-12noon	MARCHING BAND CAMP 8am-12noon	Varsity Marching Band Performance at Kennywood	10	11
12	FOOTBALL CAMP Cheerleader Boosters 7pm School Board Joint Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm	9TH GRADE ORIENTATION (HS) 9am - 11am	9TH GRADE ORIENTATION (HS) 9am - 11am MARCHING BAND PIE NIGHT 7pm Golden Rams Stadium	9TH GRADE ORIENTATION (HS) 9am - 11am 6TH GRADE TRANSITION CAMP (MS) 9am-11am Marching Band Tag Day 9am-3pm; 5:30-8pm	6TH GRADE TRANSITION CAMP (MS) 9am-11am Marching Band Tag Day 5:30-8pm	VF: Rams vs. Hopewell Stadium - 11am <i>(scrimmage)</i>
	13	14	15	16	17	18

					VF: Rams vs. Burrell Stadium - 7pm (scrimmage)	HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION (HCEF) GOLF OUTING Oak Lake Golf Course 9AM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	TEACHER ORIENTATION / BUILDING MEETINGS	TEACHER CLERICAL	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS <i>Welcome Back!</i> Kindergarten Get Acquainted Day	Kindergarten Transition Day <i>Noon Dismissal</i>	Kindergarten Transition Day <i>Noon Dismissal</i> VF: Rams @ Hollidaysburg 7:30pm	
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Highlands Class of 2012 Officers Robert McBurney, President; Rachel Miller, Vice President; Lauren Gezo, Secretary; and Nicole Greene, Treasurer

Congratulations Class of 2012!

Highlands celebrated the 44th Annual Commencement ceremony on June 7. A late afternoon thunderstorm forced the services to be held in the gymnasium rather than in the open air of the Golden Rams stadium. However, the rain didn't put a damper on the spirits of the members of the Class of 2012!


Senior Class Secretary **Lauren Gezo** led the Pledge of Allegiance, senior class VP **Rachel Miller** gave the Invocation and class treasurer Nicole Greene presented the class gift - a donation to the Highlands Relay for Life. Valedictorian **Austin Bradley** and Salutatorian **Paul Gemperlein** were recognized for their achievement by Principal **Cathy Russo** and School Board VP **Carrie Fox**.

Melina King and **Derek Rose** sang a duet, "Flying Free." **Benjamin Grove**, **Rebecca Homza**, and **Austin Bradley** (cover photo) gave the Commencement Address, "Faith, Hope and Charity." Class President **Andrew McBurney** gave the Benediction.

Congratulations and best wishes to our recent graduates!

September 2012

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2012-13 MEAL PRICES Breakfast \$1.25 Grades K-5 Lunch \$1.95 MS & HS Lunch \$2.20	CALENDAR CODES: HS - High School MS - Middle School GRV - Grandview FMT - Fairmount FAWN - Fawn VF - Varsity Football AC - Administrative Ctr.					1
2	LABOR DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED 3	First Full Day for Kindergarten Variations Rehearsal 3-5pm Variations Boosters 5pm Band Boosters 7pm 4	Sanctuary Steering Committee Mtg. (AC) 9am 5	6	VF: Rams @ Hampton 7:30pm 7	ACT @ Burrell - Gr. 12 8
GRANDPARENTS DAY 9	ELEMENTARY BAND NIGHT (HS Aud.) 6:00pm Cheerleader Boosters 7pm School Board Agenda Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm 10	PATRIOT DAY 11	12	13	VF: Rams vs. Franklin Reg. Stadium - 7:30pm Elementary Night Youth Football Night 14	Mercer Band Festival @Mercer HS 7pm 15

	ROSH HASHANAH School Board Regular Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm	ALLE-KISKI BAND FESTIVAL @ Deer Lakes 7pm Rain Date Sept. 20	COLLEGE FAIR @Clarion Hotel 6-8pm	ELEMENTARY (Gr. K-5) OPEN HOUSE 6:30-8:30pm	HALF DAY FOR GR. K-5 STUDENTS & TEACHERS Dismissal - 12 Noon VF: Rams @ Mars 7:30pm	FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23			YOM KIPPUR Title I PAC Meeting 10am - GV		VF - Rams vs. Indiana Stadium - 7:30pm MS Band Night	
30	24	25	26	27	28	29



Highlands: Overachieving Despite the Odds


Highlands School District remained at the top in the Overachieving School Districts category in the 2012 Guide to Western PA Schools, the Pittsburgh Business Times annual analysis of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) Exam results. **Highlands School District secured the #5 position on the list for local school districts, which ranks districts according to how well students perform compared to the economic status of the community.** The list ranks 104 local public districts. Highlands is rated #10 out of 496 state public districts analyzed in the Overachiever Rank. Pittsburgh Business Times lists districts in the Honor Roll rank according to PSSA scores. Highlands is #73 out of 104. Highlands is ranked #90 for economic status. The analysis uses those rankings to determine the Overachiever ranking, which answers the question "What school districts do better than expectations based upon economics?". The economic situation of a student, or a school district, is one of the strongest predictors of how well a student will perform academically.

The Pittsburgh Business Times notes in the publication that a district finishing high on this rank is smashing expectations. Highlands School District attributes its success to an open-minded philosophy of implementing innovative and effective educational programs and intervening and assisting all students in academic trouble. **Students receive individualized attention and are repeatedly assessed for benchmark improvements. Highlands also supports and fosters a environment conducive to learning, implementing Mentoring Programs, Diversity Panels for staff, and a Differentiated Supervision Committee. Professional development remains a priority in preparing and advancing faculty consistently in order to assist students in achieving their personal best.**

October 2012

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2012-13 MEAL PRICES Breakfast - \$1.25 Grades K-5 Lunch \$1.95 MS & HS Lunch \$2.20 <i>October is Computer Learning Month</i>	HS: Fall Follies Auditions 3-5pm Band Boosters 7pm 1	HIGH SCHOOL BROWN & GOLD AWARDS (HS) 7pm 2	Sanctuary Steering Committee Mtg. (AC) 9am 3	EARLY DISMISSAL ALL SCHOOLS Gr. K-5@1:28pm Gr. 6-12@12:30pm 4	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS HOMECOMING Homecoming Parade 6pm - Heights Plaza VF: Rams vs. Derry Stadium - 7:30pm 5	SAT I&II @ Highlands Gr. 12 6
<i>Fire Prevention Week: October 7-13</i> 7	COLUMBUS DAY NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Teacher Inservice PMEA Honors Band Auditions School Board Agenda Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm Cheerleader Boosters 7pm 8	9	10	11	VF: Rams @ Greensburg Salem 7:30pm 12	13
<i>National School Lunch Week: October 15-19</i> <i>National School Bus Safety Week: October 14-20</i> 14	HS: Fall Follies Rehearsal 3-5pm School Board Regular Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm 15	FALL FOLLIES TALENT SHOW (HS Aud.) 7pm 16	17	18	VF: Rams @ Ringgold 7:30pm 19	PSAT/NMSQT @ Highlands - Gr. 10/11 20

National Red Ribbon Week: October 22-31			UNITED NATIONS DAY		VF: Rams vs. Knoch Stadium - 7:30pm SENIOR NIGHT	ACT @ Butler Gr. 12
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			HALLOWEEN	CALENDAR CODES: HS - High School MS - Middle School GRV - Grandview FMT - Fairmount FAWN - Fawn VF - Varsity Football AC - Administrative Ctr.		
28	29	30	31			

Substitute Superintendent Patrick Graczyk and MS Asst. Principal Deb Beucker congratulate Alyssa Szczepanski.



275 Students Receive High Academic Honors

About 275 students in grades 5-12 were honored at the 25th Annual Academic Honors Ceremonies in May. The awards programs recognized Highlands' top academic achievers.

Honorees in grades 9-12 either earned a 96% or higher average, were one of the top 10 in their grade level, or were an Outstanding Career Technology Education student. Students in grades 6-8 earned a 96% or higher or were one of the top 10 in their grade level. Students in grade 5 earned a 95% or higher or were in the top 10 in their class.

Students and their families participated in a brief reception with refreshments prior to the programs. Highlands administrators and principals awarded the students with academic medals, ribbons, letters, and pins.



November 2012

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>November is National Career Development Month</i></p>	<p>Thanksgiving Dinner</p> 			<p>STADIUM HIGHLIGHTS HS Gym - 7pm</p> <p>1</p>	<p>HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal PM Teacher Clerical</p> <p>End of First Grading Period</p> <p>2</p>	<p>SAT I&II @Springdale Gr. 12</p> <p>3</p>
<p>STANDARD TIME BEGINS "Fall Back" One Hour</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Band Boosters 7pm</p> <p>5</p>		<p>REPORT CARDS ISSUED Sanctuary Steering Committee Mtg. (AC) 9am</p> <p>7</p>	<p>TITLE I FAMILY READING NIGHT (MS) 6:30pm</p> <p>8</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL FALL PLAY (HS Aud.) 7pm</p> <p>9</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL FALL PLAY (HS Aud.) 7pm</p> <p>10</p>
<p>VETERANS DAY 91st Annual American Education Week: Nov. 11-17</p> <p>11</p>	<p>VETERANS DAY OBSERVED NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Parent-Teacher Conference Day 11:30am-2:30pm & 4-7pm - All Schools School Board Agenda Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm Cheerleader Boosters 7pm</p> <p>12</p>				<p>"HIGHLANDS GIVE BACK" ALUMNI & COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT (HS) Aud. 7pm</p> <p>16</p>	<p>Tarentum/Brackenridge Holiday Parade</p> <p>17</p>

	School Board Regular Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm		HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal Teacher Inservice - PM GOLD CARD THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON - 11am @ HS	THANKSGIVING SCHOOLS CLOSED	SCHOOLS CLOSED	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	SCHOOLS CLOSED		ROTARY CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT (HS Aud.) 7pm		HS: High School Musical Auditions 4pm	
25	26	27	28	29	30	



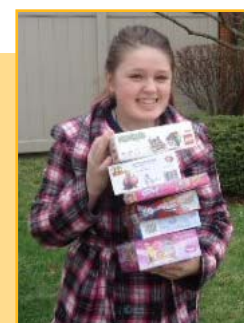
Highlands Students Take the Lead

Highlands students took the lead this year, blasting to the forefront in vo-tech, trade and skills competitions and organizations.

Morgan Berenson, Cody Woodside, Tiffany Shook and Avanelle Willison were among those student leaders. They were initiated into the National Technical Honor Society at the Forbes Road Career & Technical Center located in Monroeville. At Forbes, students are able to gain hands-on experience in technical skills and trades, ranging from cosmetology or dental care to child care and automobile technology during the normal school hours. Transportation is provided by the High School. Highlands and Forbes Road CTC have had a long-standing partnership that has contributed to the success of many graduates.

Samantha Ohl (left) was named the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Pennsylvania High School Division President at the state competition and conference last year. The Pennsylvania chapter includes thousands of students and Samantha will serve as the main organizer and leader of a cabinet of her peers in the 2012-2013 school year. Last year, members of the Highlands DECA Club won awards at the DECA District 3 Career Development conference and advanced to the state competition.

Amber Reigard (above right) led the mission to give back to those in need by organizing an annual Secret Santa Toy Drive for Children's Hospital. Last year, over 400 toys and gift cards were collected for the cause.



December 2012

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Santa Visit ~ PJs, Milk & Cookies!</p>		 <p>5th Grade Chorus Trip to Airport and PPG Ice Rink</p>				<p>SAT I&II @Butler Gr. 12</p> <p>HS: High School Musical Call-Backs</p> <p>1</p>
	<p>AK Honors Band Auditions 3:30-6:30pm @ Springdale</p> <p>Band Boosters 7pm</p> <p>2</p>		<p>Sanctuary Steering Committee Mtg. (AC) 9am</p> <p>3</p>	<p>EARLY DISMISSAL ALL SCHOOLS Gr. K-5@1:28pm Gr. 6-12@12:30pm</p> <p>MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER CHORAL CONCERT (MS) 7pm</p> <p>4</p>	<p>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Act 80 Teacher Inservice</p> <p>5</p>	<p>ACT Test @Burrell Gr. 12</p> <p>6</p>
<p>HANUKKAH</p> <p>7</p>		<p>HIGH SCHOOL HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT (HS) 7pm</p> <p>8</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID NIGHT (HS Audion) 6pm</p> <p>9</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL HOLIDAY BAND CONCERT (MS) 7pm</p> <p>10</p>		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

	HS Musical Cast Caroling "Tag Day" 6:30pm		HIGH SCHOOL WINTER BAND CONCERT (HS) 7pm	GRANDVIEW HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT Gr. 4 - 6pm Gr. 5 - 7:30pm	FIRST DAY OF WINTER HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal Elem. Teacher Clerical & Sec. Teacher Inservice	SCHOOLS CLOSED Dec. 22 through Jan. 2
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<i>Christmas Eve</i> SCHOOLS CLOSED through Jan. 2	<i>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</i>	<i>KWANZAA</i> Dec. 26-Jan.1			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	<i>New Year's Eve</i>					
30	31					



Chelsea Grinchuk and Andrew Ahr portray two of the many affluent passengers on the Titanic.

HS Event Remembers the Titanic

The Highlands High School Concert Band presented ***Titanic: A Musical Commemoration*** to a large crowd on April 13 to mark the 100th Anniversary of the tragedy. "Given the historical significance and cultural impact of the Titanic, as well as the timeliness of its centennial, a commemorative concert seemed like the way to go," said HS band director **Mr. Matthew Beresik**.

In addition to the musical exploration of the Titanic, some history, art, physics, foods and tech ed classes also participated in a cross-curricular study of the ship, its time and context. Some of the history students also dressed as if they were passengers on the Titanic, and interacted with guests at the reception.


Highlands Bands Wins Big in Williamsburg


The Highlands High School Concert, Stage and Marching Bands traveled to Williamsburg, VA for an annual Spring Band Competition last May. They performed extremely well, bringing home First Place and an Excellent Rating in all categories. The Marching Band also received Overall (Cross Division) Champion.

December 2012

January 2013

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><i>January is School Director Recognition Month</i></p> <p>NOTE: Highlands School Board meeting dates for 2013 were decided at the December Reorganization meeting and are posted on the district's website.</p>	<p>NEW YEAR'S DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED</p>	<p>SCHOOLS CLOSED</p>	<p>SCHOOLS REOPEN</p>		
		1	2	3	4	5
	Band Boosters 7pm		Sanctuary Steering Committee Mtg. (AC) 9am			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Cheerleader Boosters 7pm					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY SCHOOLS CLOSED or Makeup Day #1		End of 1st Semester	"HIGHLANDS GIVES BACK" CHARITY CONCERT: ALUMNI JAZZ (MS) 7pm		SAT I&II @Burrell Gr. 11&12
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			REPORT CARDS ISSUED Title I PAC Meeting 10am - FMT	SECONDARY (GR. 6-12) PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES (HS&MS) 6:30-8:30pm		
27	28	29	30	31		

Highlands Gives Back Through Music



Former Highlands music teacher and director Louis A. Pisani (below, right) and son Louis perform at HGB.

Last year, the Highlands Music Department presented two "Highlands Gives Back" concerts to benefit local charities: AVAC Food Bank, Highlands Area Meals On Wheels, and the Alle-Kiski Hope Center.

The November concert featured the Highlands Alumni & Community Choir, organized by Middle School & High School vocal music director, **Ms. Renee Shreffler**, who wanted to organize a community choir for several years. "The concert brought together singers of so many different ages and experience levels; it was a powerful statement about why music is such an important part of our schools and the Highlands community," said Shreffler.

Middle School band director **Mr. Lee Lynn** was instrumental in organizing the April concert, which showcased the Highlands Alumni Big Band and the Al Louis Orchestra. The highlight of the concert was a first-time father-son trumpet performance by former Highlands music teacher **Louis A. Pisani** and son, **Louis**. The event also featured a reception, basket raffles and a 50/50 drawing. Don't miss this school year's HGB charity concerts, which will be held on **November 16, 2012** (choir) and **January 24, 2013** (jazz).



The "Huggables" Community Service Group


Never Too Young to Give Back: Fawn Primary Center's After-School Community Service Group for second graders, affectionately named the "Huggables" (Helping Us Give Support), met twice a month and participated in activities that helped the school and community. It was coordinated by teachers Ms. Melissa McCurdy and Ms. Kelley Ziolkowski.

January 2013

February 2013

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		February is National Career and Technical Education Month / African American History Month & National Love A Book Month			HALF DAY FOR GR. 6-12 STUDENTS & TEACHERS Dismissal @ 11am	GROUNDHOG DAY
					1	2
National School Counseling Week: Feb. 4-8	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Act 80 Teacher Inservice Band Boosters 7pm		Sanctuary Steering Committee Mtg. (AC) 9am			ACT Test @Butler Gr. 11&12
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Cheerleader Boosters 7pm	HIGH SCHOOL BROWN & GOLD AWARDS (HS) 7pm	ASH WEDNESDAY MIDDLE SCHOOL BROWN & GOLD AWARDS (MS) Gr. 8@11am; Gr.7@ Noon; Gr. 6@1pm	VALENTINE'S DAY	EARLY DISMISSAL ALL SCHOOLS Gr. K-5@1:28pm Gr. 6-12@12:30pm	HIGH SCHOOL SEMI-FORMAL (HS) 7pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16

	PRESIDENTS' DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED or Makeup Day #2					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		



Basketball Standout Makes Highlands, WPIAL History

Micah Mason, HHS Class of 2012 graduate, Rams basketball standout, and Drake University recruit, left quite a legacy at Highlands.

In January 2012, Mason reached 2,000 career points, becoming the second boys player in Alle-Kiski Valley history to score 2,000, joining Valley legend Tom Pipkins, who scored 2,838 points in the early 1990s and still sits atop the WPIAL scoring list. Last February, Mason also became the career 3-point leader in WPIAL Basketball history with 335, surpassing the prior mark of 334 set in 2010 by Chartiers Valley graduate T.J. McConnell. Mason was also one of only seven players in WPIAL history to score 60 points in a game. He averaged about 35 points a game.


The Highlands community was proud to “WITNESS” Micah Mason’s many accomplishments!



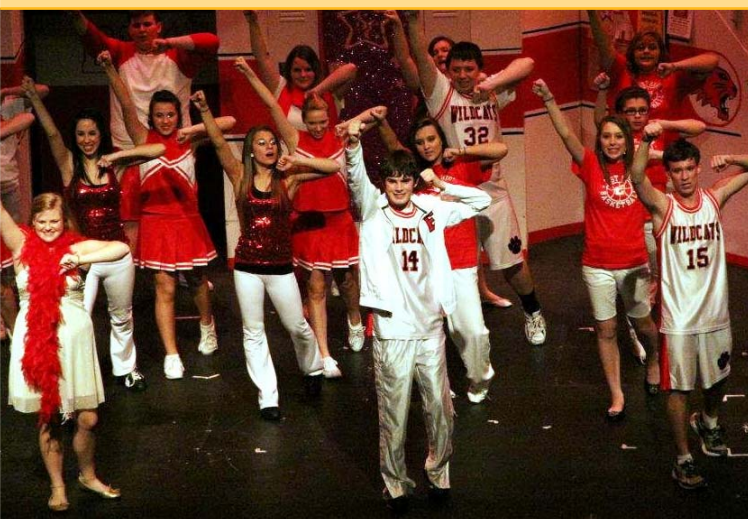
Early Childhood Fair

March 2013

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p><i>March is Music in Our Schools Month, National Nutrition Month, National Social Work Month, and Theater in Our Schools Month</i></p>		<p>READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY</p> <p>High School Musical Practice - MANDATORY 9am - 5pm HS Aud.</p>
					1	2
<p>National School Breakfast Week: Mar. 4-8</p>	<p>Band Boosters 7pm</p>		<p>Sanctuary Steering Committee Mtg. (AC) 9am</p>		<p>HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (HS Aud.) 7pm</p>	<p>SAT @Valley Gr. 11&12</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (HS Aud.) 7pm</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS - "Spring Ahead" One Hour</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (HS Aud.) 2pm Matinee</p>	<p>PSSA Writing Testing Mar. 11-15 →</p> <p>Cheerleader Boosters 7pm</p>				<p>A-K BASKETBALL CAGER CLASSIC Skills Competition</p>	<p>A-K BASKETBALL CAGER CLASSIC GAME</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16

ST. PATRICK'S DAY			FIRST DAY OF SPRING	HS: Foreign Language Club Trip to Europe Mar. 21-30 →	MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL (MS Aud.) 7pm Reception in cafeteria after performance	MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL (MS Aud.) 2pm & 7pm Reception in cafeteria after performances
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 EASTER SUNDAY		PASSOVER HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal Teacher Inservice - PM GOLD CARD EASTER LUNCHEON (HS) 11am	SPRING BREAK - SCHOOLS CLOSED Or Makeup Day #3	SPRING BREAK - SCHOOLS CLOSED Or Makeup Day #5	GOOD FRIDAY SPRING BREAK - SCHOOLS CLOSED	
	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Disney's "High School Musical On Stage"

Musical Month of March

Highlands once again kicked off the spring season last March with successful High School and Middle School musical performances.

The High School's musical, the popular Disney's "High School Musical On Stage", directed by **Mr. Michael Zeiler**, featured not only the cast and crew, but Highlands elementary and varsity basketball players, the pep band, and cheerleaders. And, HS phys ed teacher and football coach **Sam Albert** nearly stole the show as Coach Bolton!

The cast of the Middle School's musical, "Honk Jr.", directed by **Ms. Renee Shreffler**, delightfully brought the story of *The Ugly Duckling* to life on stage portraying endearing ducklings, frogs and swans. Throughout the years, the middle school junior-style musicals have proven to be a solid stepping stone for students interested in the high school level of musical performance.


Hundreds of students, staff, parents and community members spent countless hours rehearsing and preparing to make both Highlands musicals a highlight of the school year.




"Honk Jr."

April 2013

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	APRIL FOOL'S DAY SPRING BREAK SCHOOLS CLOSED <i>Or Makeup Day #4</i>	Band Boosters 7pm	Sanctuary Steering Committee Mtg. (AC) 9am End of 3rd Grading Period	EARLY CHILDHOOD FAIR & KINDERGARTEN / Pre-K REGISTRATION 5:30-8pm (HS)	HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal Teacher Clerical - PM	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
	PSSA Math & Reading Testing April 8-19 → Cheerleader Boosters 7pm		REPORT CARDS ISSUED	MS: "SHOWCASE OF STARS" TALENT SHOW (MS Aud.) 7pm		ACT Test @Butler Gr. 11&12
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>National Library Week: April 14-20</i> <i>Week of the Young Child: April 14-20</i>	PSSA Math & Reading Testing April 8-19 →	ALLE-KISKI JAZZ FESTIVAL @ Freeport HS 7pm				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

National Volunteer Week: April 21-27 Administrative Professionals Week April 21-27	EARTH DAY PSSA Science Testing April 22-26 →				Variations Trip (Tentative) Apr. 26 & 27	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Act 80 Teacher Inservice				



State Rep. Frank Dermody visits Fawn Primary Center

Students Take Grand Champ Prize in BotsIQ

Last spring, Highlands High School students competed in the 7th Annual Pennsylvania BotsIQ competition in Youngwood, PA and were named Grand Champions for their battling 'bots. The Grand Champion award recognizes the team with the best overall performance in the competition, documentation and team interviews. The "King of All Robots" team won the Grand Champion prize, while the "Honeybadgers" won Second Place in the documentation category for the overall contest. About 50 teams competed. This competition is the culminating activity of a semester project in the Highlands High School engineering course taught by **Mr. John Malobicky**.

Malobicky Receives Grant for High School's STEAM Academy

Mr. Malobicky recently received a STEAM Education Grant from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's (AIU) Center for Creativity, provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum and the Grable Foundations. The \$10,000 grant will be used to fund the planning and implementation of a STEAM Academy at Highlands High School. STEAM is an acronym which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

May 2013

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
National Physical Education & Sport Week: May 1-7			LAW DAY U.S.A. Sanctuary Steering Committee Mtg. (AC) 9am Title I PAC Meeting 10am - FAWN	HIGH SCHOOL SPRING BAND CONCERT (HS) 7pm		SAT I&II @Highlands Gr. 11&12
			1	2	3	4
HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK May 6-10 → National Teacher Appreciation Week, National Music Week May 6-10	NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION (HS) 7pm Band Boosters 7pm	National Teacher Appreciation Day HIGH SCHOOL SPRING CHORAL CONCERT (HS) 7pm		GRANDVIEW SPRING CHORAL CONCERT Gr. 4 - 6pm Gr. 5 - 7:30pm		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
MOTHER'S DAY Childrens Book Week: May 13-19	HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC HONORS CEREMONY (HS) 5:30pm Cheerleader Boosters 7pm	ELEM. / MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC HONORS CEREMONY (MS) 5:30pm	Band Drum Major Auditions (HS Stage) 3-7pm	MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING CHORAL CONCERT (MS) 7pm	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Elem. Teacher Inservice Sec. Teacher Inservice AM/ Clerical PM JR.-SR. PROM	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18

National Educational Bosses' Week: May 19-25	Band Front Auditions (HS Commons/Audion) 3-7pm May 20-24 →	ELEMENTARY BANDS-IN-REVIEW NIGHT (GV) 7pm FORBES ROAD CTC CERTIFICATE CEREMONY	ALLE-KISKI SHOW CHOIR CONCERT @ Highlands 7pm	HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ BAND CONCERT (HS) 7pm HS: Graduation Soloist Auditions		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	MEMORIAL DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED	HS: Variations Auditions	HS: Variations Auditions Variations Final Curtain Call Party (Tent.) 6pm - CC ELEMENTARY GATE NIGHT (GV Cafe) 6-8pm	MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING BAND CONCERT (MS) 7pm		
26	27	28	29	30	31	



One of the highlights in Mrs. Marian Ayres' Pre-K Counts class is "flying to Japan." Students receive a passport, board a "plane", and enjoy an "in-flight" snack and movie. The lesson also taught the children about Japanese culture.



Early Childhood Education is Key

Highlands School District believes a great start will lead to a successful academic career for all students. The Highlands Pre-K Counts Program at Grandview Upper Elementary School offers curriculum, activities, and hands-on learning exercises for Highlands area 4-year-olds that tie in to the Kindergarten lessons students taught in the Primary Centers, allowing for a smooth transition for the children and the early childhood faculty. Two classes are offered daily, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. To get more information about the Pre-K Counts Program or to be placed on a waiting list for the 2012-2013 school year, call 724-226-2400, ext. 4518.

Last year, Highlands partnered with Head Start, a free pre-school program offered through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, to share resources, ideas and connect the district students at an earlier age. The Head Start program will be housed this year at Highlands High School. Head Start is an extended day program, with lunchtime and activities incorporated into learning. For information about enrolling, call 1-866-214-KIDS.

June 2013

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				 <p><i>Congratulations to the Highlands Class of 2013!</i></p>		<p>SAT I&II @Burrell Gr. 11&12</p> <p><i>June is National Safety Month</i></p>
<p>BACCALAUREATE (HS) Aud. 7pm</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Band Boosters 7pm</p> <p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Sanctuary Steering Committee Mtg. (AC) 9am</p> <p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>LAST DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS - HALF DAY Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal</p> <p>45th ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT (Tentative) 6pm - Stadium</p> <p>REPORT CARDS ISSUED FOR GR. K-5; MAILED to GR. 6-12</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>KENNYWOOD SCHOOL PICNIC</p> <p>ACT Test @Butler Gr. 11&12</p> <p>8</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>TEACHER CLERICAL DAY</p> <p>Cheerleader Boosters 7pm</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Kindergarten Screening</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Kindergarten Screening</p> <p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>FLAG DAY</p> <p>14</p>	<p>15</p>

FATHER'S DAY					FIRST DAY OF SUMMER	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

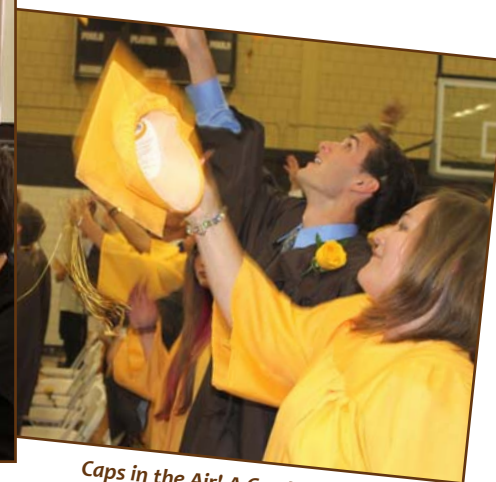
Highlands Community Recognizes Teachers

With the help of art teacher **Mrs. Louise Harvilla**, Highlands Middle School students went through the lengthy, very thorough process to nominate 8th grade Language Arts teacher **Mrs. Jeannine Vivino** for the National Education Association (NEA) Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. Mrs. Vivino was required to answer eight challenging questions regarding her teaching style in a lengthy essay. In addition, the Highlands Education Association, HMS Principal **Mr. Charles Mort** and teaching peer **Mrs. Kelly Schoepf** supported the nomination with letters of recommendation.

Ms. Samantha Perlik, Fawn Primary Center teacher and district Kindergarten Grade Level Leader, made it to the semi-finalist round in the state 2013 Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Perlik was nominated by students, parents, colleagues and members of the community who recognized her tireless efforts in and out of the classroom. Semi-finalists were chosen by National State Teachers of the Year - PA Chapter committee with guidance from the Department of Education. Ms. Perlik consistently stretches her training to better her entire school and grade level, participates in annual community events and collaborates with fellow teachers to build a strong academia program and a supportive classroom.



Learning about Marcellus Shale
8th Grade Science





Caps in the Air! A Graduation Tradition

July

2013

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 <i>INDEPENDENCE DAY Happy 4th of July!</i>	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



AFS students visit Highlands during International Days.

AFS International Days

Last spring, the Highlands AFS Chapter hosted the annual International Days at the High School and Middle School. AFS students from neighboring high schools shared their country's customs, traditions and cultures with Highlands students and staff. The Professional Foods students also prepared a luncheon in their honor.

Highlands has been involved with the AFS (American Field Service) Exchange Program for over 50 years. Through the years, Highlands families have hosted students from all over the world, and Highlands has afforded its own students the opportunity to be exchange students in countries such as Greece, Costa Rica, and Germany, to name a few. **Samantha Zrebny** recently returned from her overseas experience in Italy.

The Highlands AFS Chapter is in need of host families every school year. If you are interested in hosting a foreign exchange student, please contact **Kathy Harenski** at 724-226-3390 for more information. An AFS link is also available on the district's website for more information about hosting.

August

2013

PROUD to be Public Education!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>HS GATE field trip to the AGH Cardiovascular Institute</p>			 <p>Eddie Teorsky always has RAM Pride!</p>	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Holocaust Education at Middle School



Highlands 8th Graders had the unique opportunity to hear the touching story of Holocaust survivor **Mr. Harry Schneider** (far right in photo). **Josh Nulph** facilitated student questions for Mr. Schneider and for 20-year-old **Moritz Kulenkampff** (center), of Germany, who was a volunteer at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's Holocaust Center.

The school's annual Jewish Food Fair followed the presentation. To prepare, students researched authentic Jewish cuisine and made appetiz-

ers, breads, soups, and desserts to share during the food fair. Language Arts teachers **Mrs. Jeannine Vivino** and **Mrs. Kelly Schoepf** coordinated the annual event, which ties into the students' literary assignments about the Holocaust.



2012 Fall Sports Schedules

Varsity Football

08/18/12	Hopewell HS (S)	Home	11:00AM
08/24/12	Burrell (S)	Home	7:00PM
08/31/12	*Holidaysburg Area HS	Away	7:30PM
09/07/12	*Hampton High School	Away	7:30PM
09/14/12	*Franklin Regional	Home	7:30PM
09/21/12	*Mars	Away	7:30PM
09/28/12	*Indiana	Home	7:30PM
10/05/12	*Derry	Home	7:30PM
10/12/12	*Greensburg Salem	Away	7:30PM
10/19/12	Ringgold	Away	7:30PM
10/26/12	*Knoch	Home	7:30PM

Junior Varsity Football

09/01/12	Holidaysburg Area HS	Home	10:00AM
09/08/12	Hampton High School	Home	10:00AM
09/15/12	*Franklin Regional	Away	10:00AM
09/22/12	Mars	Home	10:00AM
09/29/12	*Indiana	Away	10:00AM
10/06/12	*Derry	Away	10:00AM
10/13/12	*Greensburg Salem	Home	10:00AM
10/20/12	*Ringgold	Home	10:00AM
10/27/12	*Knoch	Away	10:00AM

Grade 7/8 Football

08/29/12	Leechburg (S)	Home	6:00PM
09/05/12	*West Shamokin	Away	6:00PM
09/12/12	Ford City	Home	6:00PM
09/19/12	*Kittanning	Away	6:00PM
09/26/12	*Burrell	Home	6:00PM
10/10/12	*Shady Side Academy	Away	4:00PM
10/17/12	*Apollo Ridge	Home	6:00PM
10/24/12	Valley	Away	4:00PM

Girls Varsity Soccer

08/21/12	Bishop Canevin (S)	Home	2:00PM
09/01/12	OPEN DATE	Away	TBA
09/02/12	OPEN DATE	Away	TBA
09/05/12	*Valley	Home	7:00PM
09/10/12	*Indiana	Home	7:00PM
09/12/12	*Mars	Home	7:00PM
09/15/12	Penn Hills	Away	3:30PM
09/17/12	*Freeport Area	Home	7:00PM
09/19/12	*Knoch	Away	7:00PM
09/22/12	*Burrell	Away	11:30AM
09/24/12	*Deer Lakes	Home	7:00PM
09/26/12	*Valley	Away	7:00PM
09/28/12	*Indiana	Away	7:00PM
10/01/12	*Mars	Away	7:00PM
10/03/12	*Freeport Area	Away	3:45PM
10/05/12	*Knoch	Home	7:00PM
10/08/12	*Burrell	Away	7:00PM
10/10/12	*Deer Lakes	Away	7:00PM

Girls Volleyball

09/04/12	*Burrell	Home	7:00PM
09/05/12	St. Joseph	Away	7:00PM
09/06/12	*Knoch	Away	7:30PM
09/11/12	*Deer Lakes	Home	7:00PM
09/13/12	*Mars	Away	7:00PM
09/15/12	Plum Tournament	Away	8:30AM
09/18/12	*Valley	Home	7:00PM
09/19/12	St. Joseph	Home	7:00PM
09/25/12	*Freeport Area	Away	7:00PM
09/26/12	Burrell	Away	7:00PM
10/02/12	*Knoch	Home	7:30PM
10/03/12	Apollo Ridge	Away	7:00PM
10/04/12	*Deer Lakes	Away	7:00PM
10/09/12	*Mars	Home	7:00PM
10/11/12	*Valley	Away	7:00PM
10/15/12	Apollo Ridge	Home	7:00PM
10/16/12	Penn Hills	Home	7:00PM
10/18/12	*Freeport Area	Home	7:00PM

(S) - Scrimmage

(*) - League Event

NOTE: These schedules were the ones available at the time of printing. Events are subject to change.

For additional information regarding athletics, contact

Matt Bonislawski, Athletic Director
Maria Helgert, Athletic Dept. Secretary
724-226-0120



Boys Varsity Soccer

08/22/12	Franklin Regional (S)	Home	4:30PM
08/31/12	Burrell	Away	7:00PM
09/01/12	Springdale	Home	11:00AM
09/04/12	*Shady Side Academy	Away	7:00PM
09/06/12	*Mars	Home	7:00PM
09/11/12	*Kittanning	Away	3:45PM
09/13/12	*Freeport Area	Home	7:00PM
09/15/12	Penn Hills	Away	6:30PM
09/17/12	St. Joseph	Away	4:00PM
09/18/12	*Knoch	Away	7:00PM
09/20/12	*Deer Lakes	Home	7:00PM
09/25/12	*Shady Side Academy	Home	7:00PM
09/27/12	*Mars	Away	7:00PM
09/29/12	*Kittanning	Home	12:00PM
10/01/12	St. Joseph	Home	7:00PM
10/02/12	*Freeport Area	Away	3:45PM
10/04/12	*Knoch	Home	7:00PM
10/08/12	Valley	Home	7:00PM
10/09/12	*Deer Lakes	Away	7:00PM

Varsity Golf

08/17/12	Burrell (S)	Away	3:30PM
08/22/12	Shady Side Academy	Away	3:30PM
08/24/12	*Mars	Home	3:30PM
08/27/12	*Hampton	Home	3:30PM
08/28/12	Apollo Ridge	Away	3:30PM
08/29/12	*Valley	Away	3:30PM
09/04/12	*Knoch	Home	3:30PM
09/06/12	*Shady Side Academy	Home	3:30PM
09/11/12	*Mars	Away	3:30PM
09/13/12	*Hampton	Away	3:30PM
09/20/12	*Valley	Home	3:30PM
09/26/12	*Knoch	Away	3:30PM





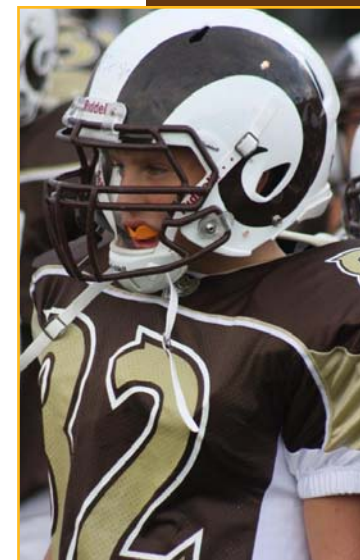
Girls Varsity Tennis

08/20/12	Burrell	Home	3:30PM
08/24/12	Springdale	Away	3:30PM
08/27/12	*Riverview	Home	3:30PM
08/31/12	*Ellis School	Away	3:30PM
09/04/12	*Vincetian	Home	3:30PM
09/06/12	*Winchester Thurston	Away	3:30PM
09/10/12	*St. Joseph High	Home	3:30PM
09/12/12	*Springdale	Home	3:30PM
09/17/12	*Riverview	Away	3:30PM
09/24/12	*Ellis School	Home	3:30PM
09/26/12	Vincetian	Away	3:30PM
10/01/12	*Winchester Thurston	Home	3:30PM
10/03/12	*St. Joseph	Away	3:30PM

Grade 7/8 Girls Basketball

08/30/12	West Shamokin (S)	Away	3:30PM
09/04/12	Riverview	Home	3:30PM
09/06/12	Manchester Acad. Charter	Away	3:30PM
09/11/12	Ford City	Home	3:30PM
09/13/12	Deer Lakes	Home	3:30PM
09/18/12	Burrell	Away	4:00PM
09/20/12	Valley	Home	3:30PM
09/25/12	Springdale	Away	3:45PM
09/27/12	Riverview	Away	3:30PM
10/02/12	Manchester Acad. Charter	Home	3:30PM
10/04/12	Ford City	Away	3:30PM
10/09/12	Deer Lakes	Away	3:30PM
10/11/12	Burrell	Home	3:30PM
10/16/12	Valley	Away	3:30PM
10/18/12	Springdale	Home	3:30PM

(S) - Scrimmage (*) - League Event
These schedules are subject to change.



Girls Grade 7/8 Soccer

08/30/12	Riverview (S)	Away	3:30PM
09/06/12	Springdale	Home	3:30PM
09/11/12	Shady Side Academy	Away	3:30PM
09/13/12	Riverview	Home	3:30PM
09/15/12	Penn Hills	Away	11:00AM
09/18/12	Deer Lakes	Away	3:30PM
09/20/12	Knoch	Home	3:30PM
09/25/12	Springdale	Away	3:30PM
09/27/12	Shady Side Academy	Home	3:30PM
10/02/12	Riverview	Away	4:00PM
10/04/12	Deer Lakes	Home	3:30PM
10/09/12	Knoch	Away	3:30PM
10/11/12	Springdale	Home	3:30PM
10/16/12	Shady Side Academy	Home	3:30PM
10/18/12	Knoch	Home	3:30PM



Boys Grade 7/8 Soccer

08/29/12	West Shamokin (S)	Home	3:30PM
09/05/12	Knoch	Away	3:45PM
09/10/12	Deer Lakes	Away	3:30PM
09/12/12	Elderton	Home	3:30PM
09/15/12	Penn Hills	Away	12:30PM
09/17/12	Kittanning	Away	3:30PM
09/19/12	Riverview	Home	3:30PM
09/24/12	Shady Side Academy	Home	3:30PM
09/26/12	Valley	Away	3:30PM
10/01/12	Springdale	Home	3:30PM
10/03/12	West Shamokin	Away	3:30PM
10/08/12	Knoch	Home	3:30PM
10/10/12	Deer Lakes	Home	3:30PM
10/15/12	Elderton	Away	3:30PM
10/17/12	Kittanning	Home	3:30PM



Winter & Spring Sports Schedules will be available on the district's website, www.GoldenRams.com.

HSD Committed to Concussion Awareness, Training

Highlands School District recognizes the serious impact concussions and other brain injuries can have on a student. Research, knowledge and training regarding concussions have become more readily available for educators, coaches and parents. Highlands has committed to learning and following the Child and Adolescent Brain Injury School Re-Entry Program called **BrainSTEPS**.

The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, partnering with the PA Department of Education, created the program, which stands for: Strategies, Teaching, Educators, Parents, Students. A December In-Service included a presenter from BrainSTEPS to speak with High School teachers and staff. Administration and staff also attended a seminar that explained the **Safety in Youth Sports Act**, ImPACT testing and the BrainSTEPS program. All of Highlands Athletic Department coaches will be required to submit a certificate of training in concussion awareness, in accordance with Highlands School Board Safety in Youth Sports Policy. Highlands also is one of the only school districts in the PIAA to perform ImPACT testing on all athletes, including cheerleaders.

Highlands and BrainSTEPS are dedicated to working to make sure that those who provide educational support to children with brain injury have the necessary resources to help these students achieve optimal educational success.



Retired Teachers Celebrate Reading with Students

During Read Across America Week last March, some of Highlands School District's retired elementary teachers visited Fairmount Primary Center to read to each classroom. Shown (left to right) are **Fred Pagnelli, Deb Cordera, Bonnie Raymond, Paula Kaminski, Kathy Burton** and **Linda Rocchi**.

Grant Transforms Education at HHS

Highlands High School is the recipient of a School Improvement Grant that will total almost \$1.3 million over the course of the next three years. This grant, awarded to only 26 school districts, focuses on improving student achievement. Highlands High School, while making Adequate Yearly Progress in the past, qualified for the grant because of slow growth in the percentage of students who improved or achieved more at their specific expectations, as determined and analyzed by PVAAS data. PVAAS is the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System, a web-based system that all districts in Pennsylvania report testing scores to in order to determine at which level a student should be performing.

Highlands applied for the grant based on the Transformation Model, which will include the review and revision of principal and teacher evaluation processes, improvement in student achievement, specific professional development sessions and an increase in the graduation rate.

"Regardless of receiving this grant, Highlands High School is focusing its goals and priorities on these four aspects," Principal **Cathy Russo** said. "But it's wonderful to have these funds to support us in achieving these goals."

The grant money is specifically earmarked for certain items that will assist high school staff and administrators in reaching the benchmarks and goals that are stated in the grant application. Items that the grant will assist in funding may include a writing lab, study skills course, Saturday Academy for tutoring and remediation and after-school tutoring support.

Since receiving the funds, the following programs and services have been offered at the High School:

Summer professional development courses for faculty to improve classroom techniques, better understand student dynamics and incorporating technology into lessons

"Saturday Institutes" - So far, SAT Prep and Open Art Studio instruction were offered on Saturdays at school

The Rams Den Writing Lab, modeled after the University of Pittsburgh's Writing Center. It is a drop-in center for students to get one-on-one help with Focus, Style, Mechanics, and Organization. Equipped with iPads, iMacs and a Document Camera, it is open every period of the day and after school.

Faculty field trips to observe and incorporate Project Based Learning into HS curriculum

Differentiated Supervision Committee, a pilot group for evaluation procedures that will be reviewed by the Dept. of Ed.

After school tutoring and Activity Buses

A Math Study Skills course

Technology support for HS computers and devices

High School students utilize the new Rams Den Writing Lab.





Did You Know? Important School Info for Parents

2012-13 School Year

Highlands School Board

January to December 2012

President.....Debbie Beale
Vice President.....Carrie Fox

Ryan Hanford William Krzton Ronald Lang
Jonathan Love Michael Masarik Eric Miles Laura Thimons

School Board Meetings

Residents are invited to attend the agenda planning meetings held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the High School Library, and the regular board meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the High School Library. Changes to meeting dates or location will be announced in the local newspaper and on the district's website, www.GoldenRams.com.

School Bell Schedule

Grade Level	Starting Time	Dismissal
Grades K-5	8:50 AM (Tardy Bell)	3:35 PM
Middle School (6-8)	7:48 AM (Tardy Bell)	2:37 & 2:42 PM
High School (9-12)	7:40 AM (Tardy Bell)	2:34 PM

Pre-Kindergarten Morning Session: 9:10 - 11:40 AM
Pre-Kindergarten Afternoon Session: 12:30 - 3:00 PM

Early and Half-Day Dismissals

During the school year students will be dismissed early on specially scheduled days. These days are listed in **red** on the monthly calendar grids. The following dismissal times will be in effect on those days:

Early Dismissals: Grades K-5 dismissed at 1:28 pm; and Grades 6-12 dismissed at 12:30 pm.

Half-Days: All buildings will dismiss students before lunch; Gr. 6-12 at approximately 11 am and Gr. K-5 at approximately 12 Noon.

Bus schedules will be revised to accommodate students for the half day dismissals.

Breakfast & Lunch Programs, Free & Reduced-Price Meals

Applications for free or reduced price breakfast and lunch will be given to all Highlands students during the first week of school to take home to parents, but parents may apply for eligibility *at any time during the year* if there are any changes in family size or income. Additional applications for free or reduced meals will be available at all schools and on the district website during the year. As part of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, Highlands School District will follow the family size and income scales established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine eligibility.

Regular school meal prices for 2012-13 are \$1.25 for breakfast, \$1.95 for Grades K-5 lunches, and \$2.20 for Middle School and High School lunches. Reduced school meal prices for all grades are \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. Grades K-5 students may choose either the daily menu or a bag lunch. Middle School and High School students may choose from the salad bar, assorted cold sandwiches, and assorted fruit. Milk and other beverages are available with every meal. Purchase of milk only is \$.60.

Emergency School Delays, Closings and Early Dismissals

The decision to delay starting times, to cancel school, or to dismiss students early because of weather factors or other emergencies is based solely on the safety and welfare of students. These situations necessarily require the understanding and cooperation of parents.

Parents who are not ordinarily at home at times of morning delays, school cancellations, or early dismissals should make arrangements at the start of the school year for their children to be supervised at home, or for them to report to a pre-arranged, safe place when such an emergency occurs.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

1. Announcements of school emergencies will be broadcast on local radio and TV stations, the One Call Now phone system, the district's website, www.GoldenRams.com, the website's E-Alert (e-mail message) system, and social media - Facebook and Twitter.

2. On a one or two-hour delay, starting times at schools and bus pick-up times will be adjusted according to the length of the delay for K-12 students. Parents of Pre-Kindergarten students will be informed of the delay procedures at the beginning of the school year.

3. The school breakfast program will be in operation on a one-hour

delay, but cancelled on a two-hour delay.

4. Early dismissals due to emergency will be ordered only when absolutely necessary.

5. **Please do not call the schools.** This procedure will always be followed. Additional information or changes during a particular emergency will be broadcast if necessary.

YMCA Before & After School Child Care

The Allegheny Valley YMCA will operate a child care program for students in grades K-5 before and after school at Grandview Upper Elementary. The morning session starts at 6:00 AM and the afternoon session ends at 6:00 PM. For more information call the YMCA at 724-224-9500.

School Attendance & Truancy Information

It is the belief of the Highlands School District Attendance Officer that school truancy is a symptom, not a problem. The earlier in a student's school career that action is taken, the better chance to assure intervention and success. All absences should be treated as unlawful until the school district receives a written excuse explaining the reason(s) for an absence.

First Unlawful Absence - Parent/guardian receives a notice of unlawful absence from the school district.

Second Unlawful Absence - Parent/guardian receives a second notice of unlawful absence from the school district.

Third Unlawful Absence - Parent/guardian receives a third notice of unlawful absence by certified mail providing "official notice of child's third illegal absence." Three days after giving such notice, the student or parent/guardian who again violates the compulsory attendance requirements shall be liable without further notice.

Truancy Elimination Plan (TEP) - School districts shall coordinate a school/family conference to discuss the cause of the child's truancy and develop a mutually agreed upon Truancy Elimination Plan (TEP) to resolve truant behavior.

Continued next page

Subsequent Unlawful Absence - After agreeing to a TEP, or if there is no agreement on a truancy elimination plan and 3 days have passed since the parent/guardian received the official notice of the child's third illegal absence, if a child is unlawfully absent, at any point within the school year, an official notice of unlawful absence will be sent home. It advises the parent/guardian that a citation will immediately be sent to the magisterial district judge.

TARDY POLICY

Grades K-5: 10 tardies = ½ day illegal absence and every additional 5 tardies count as another ½ day illegal absence.

Middle School: 5 unexcused tardies = 1 illegal absence

High School: 4 unexcused tardies = 1 illegal absence

For additional information, visit www.goldenrams.com/attendance or contact your child's school or the District Attendance Officer at 724-226-2400.

Forbes Road Career and Technology Center 2012-13 School Calendar

August 17-22	New Teacher Orientation
August 23	New Teacher In-Service
August 24-29	Teacher In-Service/Clerical
August 30	First Student Day
September 3	Labor Day (No School)
September 11	New Student/Parent Orientation
October 8	Teacher In-Service
November 6	Teacher In-Service/OAC Mtg.
Nov.22-23, 26	Thanksgiving Vacation (No School)
Dec. 24 - Jan. 1	Christmas Vacation (No School)
January 21	Teacher Clerical Day
January 18	Beginning of 2nd Semester
February 15	Teacher In-Service
February 18	President's Day (No School)
March 5	National Honor Society Induct.
March 28,29, Apr.1	Spring Break (No School)
May 3	Staff Appreciation Day
May 21	Senior Certificate Ceremony
May 27	Memorial Day (No School)
June 6	Last Student Day
June 7	Clerical Day
June 10	Last Teacher/Clerical Day

Find out more about Forbes Road CTC from our High School Guidance Department (724-226-1000) or by visiting the Forbes website at www.forbesroad.org.



Highlands Programs and Services

Gifted and Talented Education Program

Highlands School District is dedicated to providing opportunities which promote the growth of skills and knowledge necessary for identified gifted students to achieve their potential and to fulfill their future roles in our ever-changing global society. Highlands recognizes the unique abilities, talents, interests and needs of intellectually gifted students which require special educational modifications.

The gifted program (GATE) is a sincere commitment to the gifted student, yet the responsibility for educating a gifted student is inherent to all educators, the student's parents and the student. For more information about the GATE program, visit the district's website, www.GoldenRams.com, or contact Deb Lehw, Director of Special Education.

Library Services

The libraries of the Highlands School District function as a continuing unit, primary through high school, to provide the students and teachers with educational materials which serve to supplement and enrich the school curriculum and serve to provide the incentives for individual growth in specific areas of study and in the use of leisure time -- incentives which will develop in students the spirit of independent learning and exploration.

District schools are serviced by a building library and librarian. Highlands also partners with the Community Library of Allegheny Valley, which offers services, programs and seminars to students and their families. For more information about Library Services, visit www.GoldenRams.com/library.

ProjectCONNECT

ProjectCONNECT links schools, families, and communities to promote the academic success of at-risk students. A team of professionals will meet with parents to determine the student's need(s) and to assure that those needs are addressed. Programs that may be accessed include Title I, instructional support, student assistance, tutoring, counseling services, and social work services.

In grades K-5 and the Middle School, the Student Assistance Programs and the Instructional Support programs work together as ProjectCONNECT. At the High School, the Student Assistance Program is also called ProjectCONNECT. To learn more about ProjectCONNECT, contact your building principal, guidance counselor, instructional support teacher or social worker or visit the district website, www.GoldenRams.com.

Title I Program

Title I is a federally funded program developed to meet the academic needs of students. The goal of Title I is a high quality education for every child. This is achieved by providing extra help to students who are having difficulty mastering grade level skills.

Schools with at least 40% low income families can develop a Schoolwide Title I Plan. This plan offers special programs and services to address the needs of struggling students. Frequent progress monitoring and assessment data is used to make instructional decisions. High quality instruction and interventions that use proven and appropriate methods and materials are implemented. The plan is revised and evaluated each year with input from building parents, teachers and administrators. Grandview Upper Elementary School and Fairmount & Fawn Primary Centers are Schoolwide Title I buildings. For more information about the Title I Program, visit the district's website, www.GoldenRams.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

We have our own cyber school!

Highlands Virtual Academy (HVA)

Highlands School District understands that parents and students are looking for an alternative to the traditional classroom environment. Highlands is proud to meet the needs and wants of students and their parents by providing the same quality academic environment in our Highlands Virtual Academy program.

The Highlands Virtual Academy is an exciting, engaging, online learning environment that is designed to capture your child's attention and draw him/her into the interactive world of web-based education. Highlands School District has partnered with the Seneca Valley School District to utilize the award-winning Education 2020 (referred to as E2020) as its platform to provide a high quality cyber program for your student.

Highlands students may enroll in Highlands Virtual Academy from Grades 7 through 12. Our cyber school offers the benefits of an online education with the reward of a Highlands High School diploma upon completion. Students also may participate in home district athletics, extracurricular activities, and use district facilities for hands-on learning. The academy is overseen by a Highlands employee and teacher, and the Highlands curriculum is instructed. *Did you know that by operating our own cyber school we are able to recoup \$9,000 to \$20,000 per district student that elects to enroll in our cyber school versus another offered in this state?*

The Highlands Virtual Academy provides your student with a state of the art education, opportunities to participate in a wide range of district activities, and individualized instruction and support by certified and highly qualified members of the professional teaching staff. For more information about enrollment, visit www.GoldenRams.com or call the HVA Coordinator at 724-226-1000.

Annual Notices / Policies

Annual Notice: Policy #222 - Tobacco Use

The Board recognizes that tobacco use by students presents a health and safety hazard that can have serious consequences for both users and nonusers and the safety and environment of the schools.

For purposes of this policy, tobacco use shall be defined as use and/or possession of a lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar and pipe; other lighted smoking product; and smokeless tobacco in any form.

The Board prohibits tobacco use and possession by students at any time in a school building and on any property, buses, vans and vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district.

The Board prohibits tobacco use and possession by students at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property.

The school district may initiate prosecution of a student who possesses or uses tobacco in violation of this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about the district's tobacco use policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook, parent newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy.

Incidents of possession, use and sale of tobacco in violation of this policy by any person on school property shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.

A student convicted of possessing or using tobacco in violation of this policy may be fined up to \$50 plus court costs or admitted to alternative adjudication in lieu of imposition of a fine.

The following procedures will be followed for violations of this policy:

1. The violator will be referred to the principal.
2. The principal shall:
 - a. File a complaint with the local district justice for violation of Act 145.
 - b. Draft letter to parents/guardians citing the offense.
3. Student offenders will return to class unless principal uses suspension option.
4. Disposition of case will be handled by the local district justice. Witnesses, as necessary, will be released from school to appear before the district justice.

Suspension Options

1st Offense: Possession - One day In-School Suspension plus Citation.
Use - Two days In-School Suspension plus Citation.

2nd Offense: Three days Out-of-School Suspension and After-School Alternative plus Citation.

3rd Offense: Three days Out-of-School Suspension and After-School Alternative plus Citation.

4th Offense: Possible recommendation for expulsion for *Willful and Persistent Violation of School Rule*

Annual Notice: Policy #235 - Student Rights / Surveys

This policy sets forth guidelines by which student rights and responsibilities are determined, consistent with law and regulations.

The Board has the authority and responsibility to establish reasonable rules and regulations for the conduct and deportment of district students. At the same time, no student shall be deprived of equal treatment and equal access to the educational program, due process, a presumption of innocence, and free expression and association, in accordance with Board policy and school rules.

Surveys conducted by outside agencies, organizations and individuals shall be approved by the Board, based on the Superintendent's recommendation, prior to administration to students.

Attendant upon the rights established for each student are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others; obedience to properly constituted school authority; and compliance with the policies, rules, and regulations of this district.

A student who has reached the age of eighteen (18) years possesses the full rights of an adult and may authorize those school matters previously handled by parents/guardians.

Instructional Materials

Parents/Guardians shall be notified annually that all instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, audiovisuals, or other supplementary instructional material, used in the instructional program shall be available for inspection by the parents/guardians of students, in accordance with Board policy. Instructional materials do not include tests or academic assessments.

Surveys/ Evaluations

All surveys and instruments used to collect information from students shall relate to the district's educational objectives.

Parents/Guardians shall have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey created by a third party prior to administration or distribution to a student. Such requests shall be in writing and submitted to the building principal.

No student shall be required, without written parental consent for students under eighteen (18) years of age or written consent of emancipated students or those over eighteen (18) years, to submit a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of student or parents/guardians.
2. Mental and psychological problems of the student or family.
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes.
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents/guardians.
8. Income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

However, such survey, analysis or evaluation may be conducted on a voluntary basis, provided that the student and parent/guardian have been notified of their right to inspect all related materials and to opt the student out of participation. The district shall implement procedures to protect student identity and privacy when a survey contains any of the restricted subject areas listed above.

Collection of Information for Marketing

Parents/Guardians have the right to inspect the material and opt out of the student from participating in any activity that results in the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for purposes of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for or to students. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and promulgate procedures consistent with law and Board policy to ensure that student rights under varying conditions are properly described.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify parents/guardians concerning:

1. Contents of this policy and its availability.
2. Approximate dates that any surveys requesting personal information may be scheduled.
3. Procedures to request access to survey instruments prior to administration.
4. Procedures for opting students out of participation in surveys.

Personal information means individually identifiable information including a student's or parent's/guardian's name, address, telephone number, or social security number.

Annual Notice: Policy #237 - Electronic Devices

Student possession of cell phones and other personal electronic devices, such as pagers, calculators, personal assistants (PDAs), laptop computers, handheld computers, cameras, MP3 players, or any other devices designed to communicate, create or store information **is permitted** by the Highlands School Board. It should be noted that Highlands School District does not recommend bringing personal devices into schools and that owners assume all risks of damage, theft, loss or misuse of such devices. The district shall annually notify students, parent/guardians and staff about the district's electronic device policy by publishing such policy in district publications.

Devices must be powered off or silenced during the school day unless otherwise permitted by district procedures. Use of personal or district technology devices that disrupt the instructional day or includes possession, viewing, sending or sharing video or audio information having sexual, violent or threatening content on school grounds, school events or school buses is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the personal device. Exceptions to any prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior approval of the building principal or designee, or when use is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP).

Parents and students must sign Acceptable Usage Policy Waiver acknowledging review of Board Policy #815, Acceptable Use of Internet and Computer Resources and knowledge of restrictions, responsibilities and consequences in said policy. Students may not use such devices on school property and school-sponsored activities to access and/or view Internet websites that are otherwise blocked to students at school, such as, but not limited to, Facebook, MySpace and YouTube.

Student use of such devices in a manner that interrupts the instructional day will result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the device. If device is confiscated, it will only be released/returned to a parent/guardian.

Students can only utilize such devices in the classroom with the consent of the teacher. Cameras of any type in restrooms, locker rooms, swimming pool areas or during testing are prohibited. Sending text, image, sound, video or files for the purpose of cheating is grounds for confiscation and/or inspection of transmitted data.

Continued on next page

The following also is prohibited while using such devices on school grounds: sending/displaying offensive messages or pictures; using obscene language; harassing, insulting or attacking others; violating copyright laws; using another person's password/access codes; trespassing in another's digital files, work or folders. Students should not intentionally waste resources, such as excessive downloading or creating viruses. Students may not employ the district network for commercial or any non-educational purposes.

If students do not adhere to the above guidelines or if reasonable suspicion is had regarding infractions of the above guidelines, district authorities will follow these procedures:

- Staff may confiscate the device when in use outside the parameters of the acceptable use guidelines listed here and in Board Policy #815.
- School administration will receive the device and hold until parent/guardian and/or Harrison Township Police inspect device in case of guideline violations involving a sexual, violent or attacking nature.

District staff is not authorized to share, distribute or download any content from a student's personal device. Disciplinary action will be determined by the number of previous violations, the nature of the act, the context in which alleged violations occur. Consequences can vary from revocation of privileges to suspensions, expulsions or legal action.

Annual Notice: Policy #238 - Custody Issues

The district recognizes that the support of parents/guardians is vital to a student's educational success. Communication between the district and parents/guardians is essential. The school district shall promote cooperation among all parties who have a legitimate and legal interest in each student.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians living at two (2) addresses to notify the principal(s) of their child(ren)'s schools, in writing, of address and effective date of a second parental address.

The school district will make parents/guardians aware of this responsibility through an annual notification in school district publications and/or correspondence.

Parents/Guardians must provide written authorization for the school district to speak to designated others (for example, to grandparents, significant others of parents/guardians, etc.) regarding students. Specifically, school district employees will not share information about students with anyone other than a parent/guardian unless such authorization is in place.

Non-custodial parents/guardians have the same right of access to their child during school hours as the custodial parent/guardian as long as the custodial parent/guardian is notified. However, non-custodial parents/guardians may not remove their child from school without written consent of the custodial parent/guardian.

Unless one or both parents/guardians provide a document to the contrary, the district shall presume that the custodial person will receive report cards, notices, permission slips, etc. The custodial parent/guardian is the parent/guardian with whom the child lives and sleeps, the one who has physical custody, the one who assures compulsory attendance, and the one who is called in an emergency.

Unless one or both parents/guardians provide a document to the contrary, the district shall presume that both parents/guardians have shared or joint custody, giving them the right to make educational decisions. Where legal custody is shared, or there is no order pertaining to custody, both parents/guardians have a right to exercise their rights under special education due process:

1. Both parents/guardians are entitled to notices.

2. Either parent/guardian can object to an evaluation, notice of recommended educational placement, individual education plan, or placement.

If one parent/guardian has been granted sole custody, the district shall deal exclusively with that parent/guardian on all matters, except for access to educational records.

Unless documentation is provided to the contrary, both parents/guardians have access to educational records. Where there is joint legal custody, both parents/guardians will receive copies of all IDEA paperwork, if the district is aware of the addresses of both parents/guardians:

1. If IDEA paperwork requiring a signature (Permission to Evaluate and Notice of Recommended Educational Placement) is returned by one parent/guardian and not the other, action will be taken as directed by the paperwork that was returned.

2. If the parents/guardians return paperwork indicating contrary responses, the Director of Special Education will contact the Court that granted the custody for clarification. If the Court is unable or unwilling to mediate or to render a decision, the district shall request a due process hearing through the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education.

The school district will not be responsible for enforcement of custody/visitation situations. Therefore, requests to visit during school hours should not be denied unless there is a reason. It is not the job of the school to ensure that the non-custodial parent/guardian does not pick up the student.

If a non-custodial parent/guardian requests visitation during the school day, an effort will be made to notify the custodial parent/guardian, preferably before the visitation occurs. If a non-custodial parent/guardian attempts to pick up a child, the school district will notify the custodial parent/guardian and/or police before releasing the child.

Parental rights are not affected by institutionalization of the child or by temporary custody by Children, Youth and Family Services.

Annual Notice: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act: Student and Parent Rights

Students and/or parents who live in a shelter, motel, vehicle or campground, on the street, or in an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations because they cannot find or afford housing have certain rights and protections under the Homeless Education Act.

Contact the Highlands School District local liaison officer for homeless education, Dr. Karen King, at Fairmount Primary for information and assistance.

Highlands Media Procedure

The Highlands School District will allow a student's image, verbal or written comments, and a student's work to appear in various multimedia outlets, including newspaper features, television and radio broadcasts, district newsletters, publications, promotional videos, the district's website, and official district Facebook and Twitter pages unless the student's parent or guardian submits a written objection. A parent or guardian may object to the use of their child's image, comments, or work appearing in any form of media by notifying the child's principal within 30 calendar days from the start of the

school year. If a written objection is not received, silence will serve as implied consent. Anyone with questions should contact the district's School and Community Relations Office at the Administrative Center.

Parent Right-to-Know Notification

In compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act, Highlands School District is notifying parents of their right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers, and to receive the information in a timely manner. Requests should be made to the building principal.

Highly Qualified Staff

In compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act, Highlands School District is notifying parents that all Highlands professional staff and paraprofessionals are highly qualified. Parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers and of the paraprofessionals who provide instructional services to their children. Parents will be notified if their child is assigned to or being taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified in a core academic subject.

Right-to-Know Law

The Right-to-Know Law is an Act that provides for access to School District records and information that is open to the public. Requests for records or information must be made in writing and submitted to: Misty Chybrzynski, Open Records Officer, Highlands School District, PO Box 288, Natrona Heights, PA 15065. Written requests also may be sent through e-mail to mchybrzynski@goldenrams.com. A response will be issued within five business days from receipt of the request. There will be a fee charged per page of provided copies of documents.

Compliance Notice

It is the policy of the Highlands School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, disability, age, ancestry or any other legally protected classification in its educational programs, activities or employment policy as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For information regarding services, activities, programs and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons or for inquiries regarding compliance with the above policies, contact Compliance Officer, Highlands Administrative Center, PO Box 288, Natrona Heights, PA 15065.

Notice of Discrimination Grievance Procedure

Highlands School District has established a comprehensive grievance procedure for complaints of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and discrimination on the basis of physical or mental handicap. The procedure is in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any Highlands student or employee, or any individual or group acting in behalf of a student or employee (male or female) may file a grievance of sex discrimination or sexual harassment with the district's Title IX Coordinator. Any handicapped student or employee may file a grievance of discrimination on the basis of physical or mental handicap with the district's 504 Coordinator. Persons with complaints may obtain a copy of the grievance procedure and form from the district's coordinators by contacting Highlands Administrative Center.

Annual Notice: Grievance Procedures for Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

I. FILING OF A GRIEVANCE

A. Eligibility for Filing: Any student or employee or any individual or group acting in behalf of a student or employee (male or female) may file any grievance of sex discrimination or sexual harassment with the Title IX Coordinators at the Administrative Center.

B. Pre-grievance Contact: Prior to the submission of a written grievance to a hearing officer, the grievant(s) may request a pre-grievance contact with the respondent alleged to be directly responsible for the violation, and/or with the persons having immediate supervisory authority related to the grievance. These persons may make reasonable efforts to meet with the Title IX or Section 504 Coordinator to discuss the grievance that the student(s) or employee(s) wishes to bring to their attention. Such pre-grievance contact, however, shall be at the option of the grievant(s); it shall not be a precondition of a written grievance to a hearing officer.

C. Grievance Filing: Grievances filed with the Title IX coordinator or Section 504 coordinator shall be in writing on a form provided by the coordinator, and shall provide the following information: *name and address of grievant; nature of alleged violation; names of persons responsible for the alleged violation (where known); requested relief or corrective action (specification of desired relief shall be at the option of the grievant), and any background information the grievant believes to be relevant (e.g. names or groups of other persons affected by the violation, etc.)*

D. Grievance Forms: A grievance form shall be prepared by the grievant and the Title IX coordinator or Section 504 coordinator who will facilitate the filing of the grievance. These forms and a copy of the Grievance Procedures may be obtained from the Title IX coordinator or from the Section 504 coordinator located at the Highlands Administrative Center. The grievant shall have the right to request assistance from the Title IX coordinator or Section 504 coordinator or other individual, group, organization to assist in the preparation of the form or in the filing of the grievance.

E. Time Limit: A grievance must be filed within 60 days of the occurrence of the alleged Title IX violation or the alleged Section 504 violation.

F. Grievance Provisions: Prior to filing a grievance, the grievant shall be informed of the provisions and their rights, and shall be given a copy of Part V: General Provisions.

Annual Notice: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

They are:

1. *The right to inspect and review the student's education records within thirty days of the day the District receives a request for access.*

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. *The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.*

Parents or eligible students may ask Highlands School District to amend a record they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and

specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the Highlands School District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. *The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.*

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the school official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. *The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.*

The office that administers FERPA is:
Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Notice of Intent to Disclose Directory Information

The Highlands School District has designated the following as directory information: Name, Address, Phone Number, Height & Weight for Sports, Participation in Official Activities, E-mail Address

The District may disclose this information without prior consent after giving notice of the school's intention to release the information. **A parent or eligible student may object to the release of certain directory information by informing the school principal in writing within 30 days of this publication. Failure to object within the designated time period waives the right to object to the release of the above directory information.**

Parents Have Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) provides parents with certain rights regarding Highlands School District's conduct of surveys, the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Highlands School District has developed and adopted policies regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided the opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

~ *Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.*

~ *Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education.*

~ *Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.*

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:
Family Policy Compliance Office,
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920



Annual Notice: Programs for Exceptional Students Offered

Identification of Special Needs Children

The Highlands School District is responsible for locating, identifying and educating children who are in need of special education. If anyone in the community is aware of a child with a disability such as mental retardation, blindness, deafness or a physical disability who is not attending school, please notify Mrs. Debra Lehew at Grandview Upper Elementary.

Services for Preschool Children

Act 212, the Early Intervention Services Act, entitles all preschool children with disabilities to appropriate early intervention services. Young children experiencing developmental delays or physical or mental disabilities and their families are eligible for early intervention services. At-risk children are eligible for screening and tracking.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing services to preschool children ages three through five. For information, contact Project DART.*

Special Education Services for School-Age Exceptional Students

Highlands School District provides a free and appropriate public education for exceptional students. To qualify as an exceptional student a child must be of school age, in need of specially-designed instruction, and meet eligibility criteria for mentally gifted and/or one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities, as set forth in Pennsylvania Department of Education standards: autism, deaf/blindness, deafness, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific hearing disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and visual impairment.

The district provides identification procedures to ensure that eligible students receive an appropriate educational program consisting of special education and related services individualized to meet specific needs. These services are provided at no cost to parents in compliance with state and federal law, and are reasonably calculated to yield meaningful educational benefits.

To identify students who may be eligible for special education, various screening activities are conducted on an on-going basis. These screening activities include: a review of group-based data (cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, report cards, ability and achievement test scores); hearing, vision, physical and speech/language screening; and review by a building-level Instructional Support Team. When screening results suggest that a student might be exceptional, the district will seek parental consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE). Parents who suspect that their child is exceptional may request a multidisciplinary evaluation at any time by a written request to the school principal or the Director of Special Education.

Services designed to meet the needs of exceptional students include the annual development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), tri-annual multidisciplinary re-evaluation, supportive intervention in the regular class, supplemental intervention in the regular class, or in a special education itinerant, supplemental, and full-time special education class in a regular school, or placement in a full-time special education class at a location other than the regular school.

The extent of special education services, and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the IEP team, and are based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age, and the level of intensity of the specified intervention. The district provides related services, such

as transportation, physical therapy and occupational therapy, that may be required for the student to benefit from the special education program.

Parents of exceptional students should know that their children have the same rights to participate in extracurricular activities as do non-exceptional children.

Procedural Safeguards

Upon completion of the written IEP, a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP) will be issued to the parent for the parent's signature. The parent must indicate on the NOREP whether he/she agrees or disagrees with all or certain parts of the program and placement. If the parent disagrees with the NOREP, then a prehearing conference may be held. The parents and the school district each have the right to "waive" the prehearing conference, which means they choose not to participate, and therefore give up the right to have this conference. If the conference is held, it should provide school personnel and parents an opportunity to resolve the disagreement informally. Prehearing conferences can be requested by a parent at any time.

Other methods for solving disputes are the filing of a complaint, mediation and due process hearings. Student rights also include notice, consent and confidentiality of records.

Parents may obtain additional information regarding special education services, programs, and procedural safeguards by contacting the school principal or the Director of Special Education. Students who have been identified as not being exceptional for special education, as defined by special education regulations, may have written recommendations for regular education.

Services for Protected Handicapped Students

In compliance with state and federal law, Highlands School District will provide for protected handicapped students those services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities. These related aids are provided without discrimination or cost to the student or parents. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

Services and protections for protected handicapped students are distinct from those applicable to exceptional students enrolled or seeking enrollment in special education programs.

For further information about the evaluation procedures, and provision of services to protected handicapped students, contact the Director of Special Education.

Confidentiality

In compliance with state and federal law, Highlands School District protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information regarding exceptional and protected handicapped students. Parents have the rights to review, inspect, make copies and request a list of all individuals having access to those records. Parents and guardians must contact the building principal to arrange to view records. Copies of the Highlands School District Policy for Collection, Maintenance, and Disclosure of Student Records may be obtained at the Highlands School District Administrative Center.

*Allegheny Intermediate Unit, 475 E. Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120, or phone 412-394-5700.

918. Title I Parental Involvement Policy

1. Purpose

The Board recognizes that parental involvement contributes to the achievement of academic standards by students participating in Title I programs. The Board views the education of students as a cooperative effort among the school, parents/guardians and community.

2. Authority 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318

In compliance with federal law, the district and parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs shall jointly develop and agree upon a written parental involvement policy. When developing and implementing this policy, the district shall ensure the policy describes how the district will:

1. Involve parents/guardians in the joint development of the district's overall Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement **by conducting monthly building and/or district PAC meetings attended by parents, teachers, administrators and Board members.**

2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, including assistance in understanding state academic content and performance standards, state and local assessments, requirements of Title 1.

3. Develop activities that promote the schools' and parents/guardians' capacity for strong parental involvement **by promoting an atmosphere of open communication and cooperation.**

4. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with appropriate programs, as provided by law, including information on how to work with business partners and other community organizations to learn about Title 1 and to encourage school/family/community partnerships.

5. Involve parents/guardians in an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of schools served under Title I **through explanation and discussion of policy details.**

6. Identify barriers to participation by parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority **and find ways to strengthen outreach.**

7. Use findings of annual evaluations to design strategies for more effective parental involvement that will be implemented throughout the district as appropriate.

8. Involve parents/guardians in the activities of schools served under Title I. 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318 The Board shall adopt and distribute the parental involvement policy, which shall be incorporated into the district's Title I plan and shall be evaluated annually, with parental involvement.

3. Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's Title I parental involvement policy, plan and programs comply with the requirements of federal law. The building principal and/or Title I staff shall provide to parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs:

1. Explanation of the reasons supporting their child's selection for the program.

2. Set of objectives to be addressed.

Continued on next page

Title I Parent Involvement Policy cont.

3. Description of the services to be provided.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that information and reports provided to parents/guardians are in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians can understand.

4. Guidelines 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318

An annual meeting of parents/guardians of participating Title I students shall be held to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program. Parents/Guardians shall be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the program. Parents/Guardians shall be encouraged to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs. In addition to the required annual meeting, additional parent/guardian meetings shall be held at various times of the day and evening. At these meetings, parents/guardians shall be provided:

1. Information about programs provided under Title I.
2. Description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
3. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.
4. Opportunities to submit parent/guardian comments about the program to the district level.

If sufficient, Title I funding may be used to facilitate parent/guardian attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and child care costs. Opportunities shall be provided for parents/guardians to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their child's progress. Parents/Guardians may be given guidance as to how they can assist at home in the education of their child. Whenever Title I parents/guardians are involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the educational programs of the district and require transportation, child care, home visits or other services in order to participate, related expenses may, at the discretion of the district, be paid from Title I funds. The goal of our partnership is to develop programs, activities, and procedures collaboratively, airing differences as needed to increase the capacity for parental involvement to all families in the district.

School-Parental Compact

Pol. 102

Each school in the district receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents/ guardians of students served in the program a School-Parental Compact outlining the manner in which parents/guardians, school staff and students share responsibility for improved student achievement in meeting academic standards. The compact shall: 1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students in the Title I program to meet the district's academic standards.

2. Indicate the ways in which parents/guardians will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extracurricular time.

3. Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents.

Additional Title I information and Title I newsletters are available on the district's website, www.GoldenRams.com.

Highlands Health Services Procedures

Highlands Medication Policy and Procedures

Purpose:

All schools are accountable to provide safe, legal, and appropriate care for students. This includes the administration of medications during the school day that enable the student to attend school and to take full advantage of his or her educational program. However, the Board shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness.

The administration of prescribed medication to a student during school hours in accordance with the direction of a parent/guardian or family physician will be permitted only when:

Failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student.

The student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not available during school hours.

Definition:

For purposes of this policy, medication shall include all medicines prescribed by a physician and any over-the-counter (non-prescribed) medicines. For purposes of this policy, CSN shall refer to the district's Certified School Nurse.

Authority:

No medication, prescription and non-prescription (Over The Counter), will be administered in school except by the Direct Medication Order Form of a licensed health provider and accompanied with a parent's/guardian completed and signed Highlands Medication Administration Permission Form. This paperwork must be in place before any medications are dispensed to students. Highlands School District does not supply any medications and it is the parent's responsibility to supply and deliver all medications to be administered during school hours.

Delegation of Responsibility:

Only the School Nurse, or other licensed health personnel, will be solely responsible for administering medications to students. School districts may not assign the medication administration function to the school administrators, teachers, or other personnel under the doctrine of "in loco parentis".

The parent/guardian is responsible for the delivery of all medications, required consent form, and medication order to the school health personnel. Students are not permitted to carry or possess any medications while in attendance of the Highlands School District Schools.

All medication is to be taken in the presence of the school nurse. In the case of inhalers and EpiPens, the parent/guardian and student will follow the procedures and for possession and use of emergency medications.

Guidelines:

The parent/guardian of the child must assume responsibility for informing the school nurse of any changes in the child's health or change in medication. A new "Medication Order" from the licensed provider and the Medication Permission Form, completed by the parent will be required with each change in medication and at the start of each school year.

Highlands School District will record any medication variances. Medication Variances are deviations from the standard of care. Variances can include: incorrect medication, incorrect student, omitted doses, incorrect doses, incorrect time of administration, and incorrect route and technique of administration. All variances are to be documented and the parent and the building and department administrators should also be notified. The CSN should notify the licensed prescriber if potential for harm to the student. The student should be assessed by the CSN for untoward effects.

Annual Screenings

1. Growth Screenings - Height, Weight, and BMI (Body Mass Index) is required annually for all children in all grades (K-12). These measurements will be done by a certified school nurse, teacher, or persons under the direction of a certified school nurse. The certified school nurse will send a Parent/Guardian Notification letter as needed.

2. Scoliosis screening will be done in grades 6 and 7 by the certified school nurse or persons certified in scoliosis screening.

3. Vision screening for both distance and near vision acuity is required annually for all children in all grades (K-12). Students in grade 1 will be tested for plus lens, color vision deficiency, and depth perception. The Snellen eye charts are used for vision exams. Referrals are sent home to parents/guardians of those students who have failed any of the vision screenings. The vision screening is done by a certified school nurse, or under the direction of the certified school nurse.

4. Annual hearing screening is required for all children in Grades K-3, 7 and 11. The Pure-Tone Audiometer is used for hearing screenings. Referrals are sent to parents/guardians of those students who failed the hearing screening. The hearing screenings are done by a certified school nurse or under the direction of the certified nurse.

All results of the health screenings are recorded in the student's confidential health record.

Continued next page

Re-Admission to School Following a Communicable Disease

1. The certified school nurse will comply with the "Requisition of Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases" issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health for the management of diseases in the school age population.
2. For the diseases listed below, re-admission of students to school will occur on the following basis:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Period of Exclusion</u>
<i>Chicken Pox</i>	Until all vesicles are scabbed and absence of fever
<i>Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)</i>	24 hours after medical treatment has begun
<i>Impetigo</i>	(For large area of multiple site infection) 24 hours after medical treatment has begun; draining sores must be covered while in school
<i>Ringworm</i>	24 hours after treatment has begun; no contact sports until lesions are gone
<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	At least 24 hours after treatment has begun and temperature has been normal for 24 hours
<i>Strep Throat</i>	At least 24 hours after treatment has begun and temperature has been normal for 24 hours
<i>Scabies</i>	12 hours after proper medical treatment has begun
<i>Pediculosis (Head Lice)</i>	Re-admit as soon as shampoo treatment has been used and school nurse has confirmed that all nits have been removed (See separate procedure)
<i>Acute Gastro-Enteritis Virus (diarrhea, vomiting)</i>	Children who are vomiting will be sent home and remain home until vomiting subsides. Acute diarrhea episodes will be assessed individually.
<i>Fever</i>	Children with fevers greater than 100.5 will be sent home and remain home until fever free (less than 100.5). Children with a fever less than 100.5 during the course of the school day will be permitted to rest and return to class provided they have no other symptoms of infection.

Highlands School Nurses:

Kim Woodrow, RN, CSN High School, St. Joseph HS, OLMBS	724-226-1000
Shelly Long, RN, CSN Middle School, Fairmount	724-226-0600
Mary Beth Jones, RN, CRNP Grandview, Fawn	724-224-0300

Dental Health Services

The Pennsylvania School Health Act, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Highlands School District mandate that all children as first-time enterers (Kindergarten or Grade 1) in Grade 3 and in Grade 7 must receive a Dental Examination.

Required dental examinations may be conducted by the family dentist and reported to the school. All parents are encouraged to have their children examined by the family dentist so as to provide continuity in the child's dental care. An examination done by the family dentist within the calendar year of that school year (from January 1) and recorded on the form provided by the school will be accepted for the required examination for that year.

Implementation of the School Dental Examination is the responsibility of the school administrators, certified school nurse, and the school dental examiners. School dental examinations will be scheduled and conducted for students who do not return verification of receiving a dental exam by their family dentist.

Procedure for Dental Examination by the Family Dentist

Each spring, before the close of school, the Private Dentist Report of Dental Examination, together with the Highlands School District cover letter will be sent to parents of all children in Grade 2 and Grade 6. These forms will also be distributed to parents of children registering for Kindergarten or Grade 1 as first-time enterers.

When school opens in the fall, determination will be made of the number of children in Kindergarten or Grades 1, 3 and 7 that have had a dental examination by their family dentist and have returned a completed Private Dentist Report form to the school. Documents returned to the school will be placed in the student's confidential health record. After October 1, another private dental report form and letter from the school nurse will be sent to those who have failed to return the initial form. Following this procedure, the school nurse will notify the school administrator of the students who still have not returned the requested form; will schedule these students to receive a school dental examination during school hours, by the school dentist.

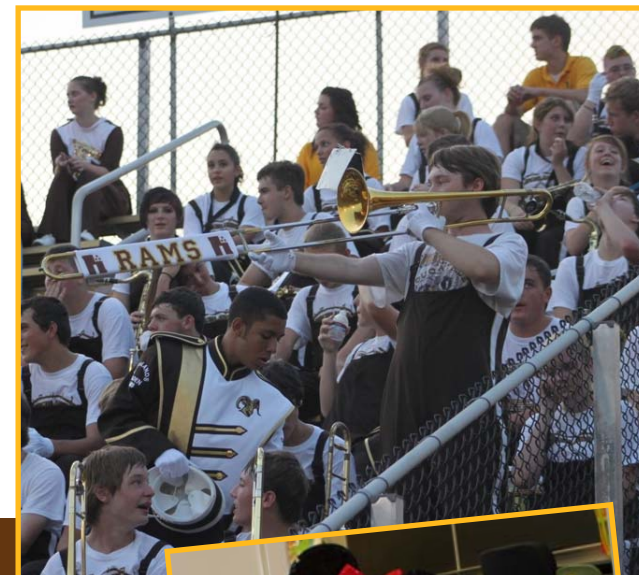
Medical Health Services

The Pennsylvania School Health Act, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Highlands School District stipulates that medical examinations will be required of all first enterers (Kindergarten or Grade 1) in Grade 6 and in Grade 11. Required medical examinations may be done by the family physician within the calendar year of that school year (from January 1) and recorded on the form provided by the school. Documentation from the district's athletic department of students receiving a "sports physical" during the calendar year will also be accepted for the required medical examinations for grade 6 and grade 11 school years. Parents are encouraged to have their children examined by their family physician so as to provide continuity in the child's medical care.

Procedure for Medical Examination by the Family Physician

Each spring, before the close of school, the Private Physician's Report of Physical Examination, together with the Highlands School District cover letter will be sent to parents of all children in Grade 5 and Grade 10. These forms will also be distributed to parents of children registering for Kindergarten or Grade 1 as first-time enterers.

When school opens in the fall, determination will be made of the number of children in Kindergarten or Grades 1, 6 and 11 that have had a physical examination by their family physician and have returned a completed Private Physician's Report form to the school. Documents returned to the school will be placed in the student's confidential health record. After October 1, another private physical report form and letter from the school nurse will be sent to those who have failed to return the initial form. Following this procedure, the school nurse will notify the school administrator of the students who still have not returned the requested form; will schedule these students to receive a school physical examination during school hours, by the school doctor.



HighlandsSD

Proud to be RAMS!

Highlands School Board 2012



Front Row: Debbie Beale, President; Carrie Fox, Vice President; Laura Thimons

Standing: Jonathan Love, William Krzton, Ryan Hanford, Michael Masarik, Ron Lang, Eric Miles



Middle School's
PINK OUT in honor
of Breast Cancer
Awareness Month



Grandview's
McTeacher Night



"HONK!"
Musical at the
Middle School



Orientation &
Open House



Fairmount
School Picnic



High School Prom
"Grecian Gala"