



Highlands High School
Class of 2020
Salutatorian THOMAS BENDER &
Valedictorian WILLIAM GUSTAFSON

Framing
the
FUTURE

2020-21 Highlands School District
ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Framing the FUTURE

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year!

Dear Highlands Students and Families,

I don't think I have ever been more excited to say, "Welcome Back!" The end of last year was quite an event for all of us as we experienced a part of history that will be talked about for years; the COVID pandemic! Since the school closure in March of 2020, the administration has been working tirelessly to get the 2020-2021 school year up and running. We are taking extra precaution to assure the buildings and classrooms meet the social distancing guidelines in order to keep our students and staff safe.

The teachers have been working hard to design instruction for both in-person learning days and remote learning days. The district has provided each academic teacher with cameras in their classrooms, so that the students can learn from home. In addition, they will have portable document cameras to utilize at home on remote Fridays to assure the instruction continues. Teachers have been participating in professional development in order to enhance their virtual instruction. They have a significant task this upcoming year with teaching in a hybrid model, so the district is supporting them by providing the technology and professional development they need to be successful.

All students have been given a district device, so that instruction can remain fluid regardless of where it is taking place. This evens the playing field for our students and allows them the opportunity to connect virtually with their teachers on the remote learning days.

Now more than ever the school and families need to work together for our students. We need to be patient with each other as we navigate this new way of teaching and learning. Communication amongst the students, parents, teachers and administrators is critical in order for our students to learn and master the curriculum in the new educational environment they will experience come August 28, 2020.

While maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff, the time has come to put our focus back on education and the continued implementation of the district's 2019-2024 **Framing the Future** goals: Student Achievement and Growth, Teaching and Learning; Operational Efficiency; Safety and Security; and Collaborative Community and Culture.

As we move forward, I have the utmost faith in our Highlands teachers, staff, administrators, parents, and especially our students! If any group of people can excel through this challenging time, it is our Highlands School District Community. I have never been prouder to be the Superintendent of the Highlands School District, and I am excited to share in this adventure with all of you.

I wish our students and staff a wonderful start to the 2020-2021 school year!

Warm Regards,

Monique Mawhinney

Monique Mawhinney, Ed.D., Superintendent



www.goldenrams.com



Highlands School District BUILDING DIRECTORY

Highlands Administrative Center

*The Administrative Center is located at the High School.
Parking and entrance is at rear of building.*

1500 Pacific Ave., PO Box 288
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
724-226-2400 Fax 724-226-8437

Superintendent: **Dr. Monique Mawhinney**
Assistant Superintendent: **Dr. Cathleen Cubelic**

Executive Director of Business Affairs &
Support Services: **Lori P. Byron, CPA**

Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction,
Assessment & Funding Programs:
Catherine M. Russo

Student Services Co-Directors:
Dr. Anne Rose & Amy Filipowski

School Psychologist: **Micalla Mikus**
Director of Technology: **Michael Losk**
PIMS / SIS Data Analyst: **Diane Faix**
Director of Buildings & Grounds: **Christian Reiser**
Transportation & Athletic Director: **Drew Karpen**
Director of Food Services: **Jim Pritchard**
Communications Coordinator: **Jennifer Goldberg**



Highlands High School Grades 9-12

1500 Pacific Avenue
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
724-226-1000 Fax 724-226-9611
Principal (11-12): **Charles Mort**
Principal (9-10): **Shawn Bennis**
Dean of Students: **Nam Pham**

Highlands Middle School Grades 5-8

1350 Broadview Boulevard
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
724-226-0600 Fax 724-226-3287
Principal: **Dr. Kimberly J. Price**
Assistant Principal: **Becky Bragan**
Dean of Students: **Michael Toole**

Highlands Elementary School Grades 1-4

101 East Ninth Avenue
Tarentum, PA 15084
724-224-0300 Fax 724-224-3178
Principal: **Dr. Stanley B. Whiteman**
Assistant Principal: **Kristie Gizienski**

Highlands Early Childhood Center Pre-K & Kindergarten

1060 Atlantic Avenue
Brackenridge, PA 15014
724-224-5880 Fax 724-224-2413
Principal: **Samantha Perlik**

Transportation:
724-226-2400

Information for Parents 2020-21

www.goldenrams.com


Bell Schedule



Pre-K Counts

Morning Session: 8:55-11:25am
Afternoon Session: 1:10-3:40pm

Grades K through 4

Start: 8:55am (tardy bell)
Dismissal: 3:40pm

Middle School (5-8)

Start: 8:10am (tardy bell)
Dismissal: 3:00pm

High School (9-12)

Start: 7:40am (tardy bell)
Dismissal: 2:30pm

Hybrid Instructional Schedule

GROUP A

Mon/Tue: IN-PERSON
Wed/Thur/Fri: REMOTE

GROUP B

Mon/Tue/Fri: REMOTE
Wed/Thur: IN-PERSON

Delayed Schedule Days & Half-Day Dismissals

On designated days during the school year, students will either attend school on a *2-hour delayed schedule* or attend school for a *half day* to allow for teacher clerical duties and/or professional development. These days are listed in **red** on the monthly calendar grids.

2-HOUR DELAYS: On a 2-hour delay, starting times at schools and bus pick-up times will be adjusted accordingly for students.

HALF-DAYS: All buildings will dismiss students *before* lunch. High School will dismiss at **11:00am**; Middle School at **11:30am** and grades K through 4 at **12:10pm**. Bus schedules will be adjusted to accommodate students.

Emergency School Delays, Closings & 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.** The emergency procedure is as follows:

1. Announcements of school emergencies will be broadcast on local radio and TV stations, the phone call alert system, the district's mobile app and website, www.goldenrams.com, Facebook and Twitter.
2. On a two-hour delay, starting times at schools and bus pick-up times will be adjusted accordingly for K-12 students. Parents of Pre-Kindergarten students will be informed of the delay procedures at the beginning of the school year.
3. Early dismissals due to an emergency will be ordered only when absolutely necessary.
4. **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.

School Attendance, Truancy

It is the belief of Highlands School District 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 will be treated as unexcused until the school district receives a written excuse explaining the reason(s) for an absence.* **Parents/guardians must submit excuses within 3 days as a written note or as an email to your child's teacher or building secretary.** Legislative Law under Act 138 Section 1325-1333 of the PA School Code defines "truant" as having 3 or more unexcused absences.

Truant – 3 unexcused absences; Parent/Guardian will receive a Notice of Truancy in the mail.

Habitual Truancy – 6 unexcused absences; A letter requesting a parent/guardian attend a Student Attendance Improvement Plan meeting will be sent in the mail. *Continued habitual absences may result in a violation of Compulsory Attendance Law.*

TARDY POLICY

Grades K through 4: 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

Please contact your child's school principal if you have questions about the attendance policy.

2020-21 Parent/Student Handbooks for each school building will be available on the district website's building pages on www.goldenrams.com.

Changes to calendar events/dates will be posted on www.goldenrams.com.




August 2020

Highlands School District

www.goldenrams.com

*Home *School *Community



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>CALENDAR CODES:</p> <p>HS - High School</p> <p>MS - Middle School</p> <p>HES - Highlands Elementary School</p> <p>HECC - Highlands Early Childhood Center</p> <p>CC - Community Center</p>			1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

School Board Agenda
Meeting 7:00pm

	School Board Regular Voting Meeting 7:00pm				Clerical Day for Pre-K Teachers Only	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY #1	TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY #2	TEACHER CLERICAL DAY	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Act 80 Day - Teacher PD	FIRST DAY OF REMOTE LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS	SAT I&II - Gr. 12
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	First Day of In-Person Learning for <u>Group A</u> Students					
	31					



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August 2020




September 2020

Highlands School District

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CALENDAR CODES: HS - High School MS - Middle School HES - Highlands Elementary School HECC - Highlands Early Childhood Center CC - Community Center		1	First Day of In-Person Learning for <u>Group B</u> Students 2	3	4	5
6	LABOR DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED 7	8	9	10	PATRIOT DAY 11	ACT Test - Gr. 12 12
13	School Board Agenda Meeting - 7:00pm 14	VIRTUAL "BACK TO SCHOOL" NIGHT for Highlands High School & Highlands Early Childhood Center 6:30-8:30pm 15	VIRTUAL "BACK TO SCHOOL" NIGHT for Highlands Elementary 6:30-8:30pm COLLEGE FAIR @ Quality Inn 6:00-8:00pm 16	VIRTUAL "BACK TO SCHOOL" NIGHT for Highlands Middle School 6:30-8:30pm 17	ROSH HASHANAH Begins HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS & TEACHERS HS: 11:00am dismissal MS: 11:30am dismissal K-4: 12:10pm dismissal 18	19

	School Board Regular Voting Meeting - 7:00pm	FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN Special Education Parent Training 6:30-7:30pm			2-HOUR DELAY FOR K-12 STUDENTS <i>Pre-K Students start at their regular time. Teacher PD</i>	SAT I @Highlands HS Gr. 12
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
YOM KIPPUR Begins			Title I PAC & PTO Meeting 5:30pm			
27	28	29	30			



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September 2020



October 2020

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 NATIONAL CUSTODIAN RECOGNITION DAY	3 SAT I&II @Highlands HS Gr. 12
4 Fire Prevention Week: Oct. 4-10	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 COLUMBUS DAY National School Lunch Week: Oct. 12-16 School Board Agenda Meeting - 7:00pm	13	14 PSAT/NMSQT @Highlands - Gr. 10 & 11	15	16	17

	National School Bus Safety Week: Oct. 19-23 School Board Regular Voting Meeting - 7:00pm FINANCIAL AID / FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT 6:00pm (HS Audion)				Red Ribbon Week: Oct. 23-31	UNITED NATIONS DAY ACT Test - Gr. 12
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				End of 1st Quarter Grading Period		HALLOWEEN
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Framing the
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October 2020





November 2020


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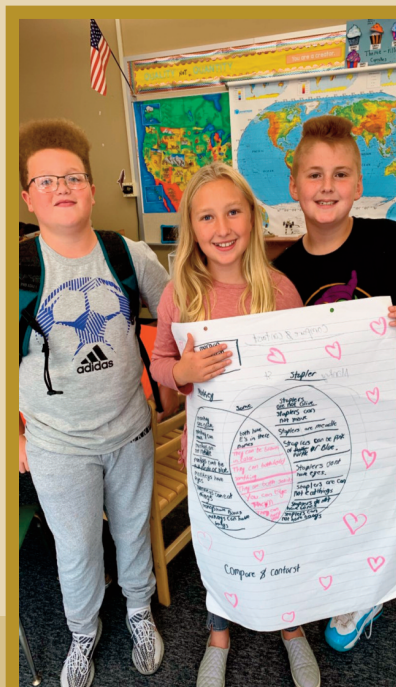
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November is Career Development Month STANDARD TIME BEGINS "Fall Back" One Hour		ELECTION DAY			NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Teacher Clerical Day	VARSITY BAND BOOSTERS FALL CRAFT SHOW 9:00am-2:00pm Location TBD ACT Test - Gr. 12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	School Board Agenda Meeting - 7:00pm	10	Report Cards Available Online (Power School)	12	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS VIRTUAL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES 11:30am-2:30pm and 4:00-7:00pm (All Schools)	14
			VETERANS DAY			
99th Annual American Education Week: Nov. 16-20 →	School Board Regular Voting Meeting - 7:00pm	Special Education Parent Training 6:30-7:30pm				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

			HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Teacher Clerical (PM) HS: 11:00am dismissal MS: 11:30am dismissal K-4: 12:10pm dismissal	THANKSGIVING DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED Thanksgiving Break	SCHOOLS CLOSED Thanksgiving Break	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	SCHOOLS CLOSED Thanksgiving Break					



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November 2020




December 2020

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<i>Keystone Exams Testing Window: Dec. 1-15 →</i> School Board Reorganization Meeting 7:00pm 1	2	3	4	SAT I&II - Gr. 12 5
	A-K Honors Band Auditions			<i>HANUKKAH Begins</i>		ACT Test - Gr. 12
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

	FIRST DAY OF WINTER		HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Teacher Clerical (PM) HS: 11:00am dismissal MS: 11:30am dismissal K-4: 12:10pm dismissal	HOLIDAY VACATION SCHOOLS CLOSED through Jan. 3 CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS DAY →	KWANZAA Dec. 26-Jan. 1
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Happy Holidays!			NEW YEAR'S EVE →		
27	28	29	30	31		



Framing the
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December 2020





January 2021

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Highlands School District

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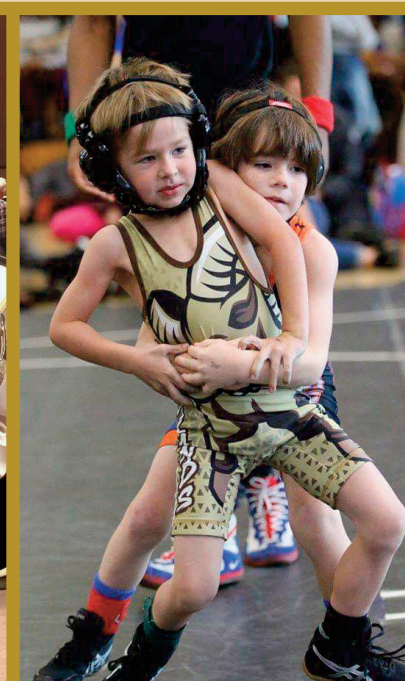
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		January is School Director Recognition Month NOTE: Highlands School Board meeting dates for 2021 were determined at the December Reorganization meeting and are posted on the district's website.		NEW YEAR'S DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED		
	SCHOOLS REOPEN Welcome Back! Keystone Exams Testing Window: Jan. 4-15 →					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16

	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY SCHOOLS CLOSED OR MAKEUP DAY	END OF FIRST SEMESTER		A-K Honors Band Jan. 21-23 →	HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Teacher Clerical (PM) HS: 11:00am dismissal MS: 11:30am dismissal K-4: 12:10pm dismissal	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	Great Kindness Challenge Week: Jan. 25-29 →		Report Cards Available Online (Power School) Title I PAC & PTO Meeting 5:30pm		2-HOUR DELAY FOR K-12 STUDENTS Pre-K Students start at their regular time. Teacher PD	
	25	26	27	28	29	30



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January 2021




February 2021

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>National School Counseling Week: Feb. 1-5 →</p> <p>1</p>	<p>GROUNDHOG DAY</p> <p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>ACT Test - Gr. 11/12</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL ALUMNI & CAST CABARET CONCERT 7:00pm (HS Aud)</p> <p>6</p>
<p>February is National Career and Technical Education Month / African American History Month & National Love A Book Month</p> <p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>VALENTINE'S DAY</p> <p>14</p>	<p>PRESIDENTS' DAY</p> <p>SCHOOLS CLOSED OR MAKEUP DAY</p> <p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>17</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL WINTER TALENT SHOW 7:00pm (HS Aud.)</p> <p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>Highlands Varsity Marching Band Banquet</p> <p>20</p>

<div>21</div> <div>28</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>TITLE FAMILY NIGHT 5:30-8:00pm - High School</div> <div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>
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February 2021




March 2021


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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><i>National School Breakfast Week: March 1-5</i></p> <p>1</p>	<p><i>National Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Day)</i></p> <p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>EARLY CHILDHOOD FAIR & KINDERGARTEN / Pre-K REGISTRATION 5:30-8pm (HECC)</p> <p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p><i>March is National Nutrition Month, National Social Work Month, Music in Our Schools Month, Youth Art Month, and Theater in Our Schools Month</i></p> <p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>HONORS BAND RECITAL 7:00pm (HS Audion)</p> <p>10</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL *Tentative* 7:00pm (MS Aud) Cookies with the Cast following the performance</p> <p>11</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL *Tentative* 7:00pm (MS Aud) Cookies with the Cast following the performance</p> <p>12</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL *Tentative* 7:00pm (MS Aud) Cookies with the Cast following the performance</p> <p>SAT I - Gr. 11/12</p> <p>13</p>
<p>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS "Spring Ahead" One Hour</p> <p>MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL *Tentative* 2:00pm (MS Aud) Cookies with the Cast following the performance</p> <p>14</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL TICKET SALES 3-5pm - HS Auditorium Lobby Mar. 15-18 →</p> <p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</p> <p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Teacher Professional Development Day</p> <p>19</p>	<p>FIRST DAY OF SPRING</p> <p>20</p>

	HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL TICKET SALES 5-7pm - HS Auditorium Lobby Mar. 22-25 →			End of 3rd Quarter Grading Period	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Teacher Clerical Day HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION: <i>Mamma Mia!</i> 7:00pm (HS Aud)	HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION: <i>Mamma Mia!</i> 7:00pm (HS Aud) PASSEOVER Begins
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION: <i>Mamma Mia!</i> 2:00pm Matinee (HS Aud)						
28	29	30	31			



Framing the FUTURE

March 2021






April 2021

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			SPRING BREAK: SCHOOLS CLOSED <i>OR MAKEUP DAY</i>	SPRING BREAK: SCHOOLS CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY NATIONAL PARAPROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION DAY		
EASTER SUNDAY	Report Cards Available Online (Power School) SPRING BREAK: SCHOOLS CLOSED <i>OR MAKEUP DAY</i>					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		A-K JAZZ FESTIVAL 7pm (TBD)				ACT Test - Gr. 11/12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

	PSSA Testing Window: ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS April 19-23 →		NATIONAL SECRETARIES DAY	EARTH DAY		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	PSSA Testing Window: MATH / SCIENCE / MAKEUPS April 26-30 →		"ONE SONG" SHOW CHOIR FESTIVAL @Highlands HS - 7pm			
25	26	27	28	29	30	



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April 2021



May 2021

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Physical Education Week: May 2-8 2	National Teacher Appreciation Week: May 3-7 ELEMENTARY SPRING CHORAL CONCERTS Gr. 3 - 6:00pm (HES Aud) Gr. 4 - 7:15pm (HES Aud) 3	NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY 4	HIGH SCHOOL BAND SPRING CONCERT 7:00pm (HS Aud) 5	6	HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Teacher PD HS: 11:00am dismissal MS: 11:30am dismissal K-4: 12:10pm dismissal NATIONAL LUNCH LADIES APPRECIATION DAY <i>JR/SR Prom this weekend (Fri or Sat - TBD)</i> 7	LAW DAY VARSITY BAND BOOSTERS SPRING CRAFT SHOW 9:00am-2:00pm (HS Cafe & Gym) 1 SAT I&II @Highlands Gr. 11 & 12 8
MOTHER'S DAY 9	ACADEMIC HONORS CEREMONY: High School 5:00pm - Reception 5:30pm - Ceremony (HS) 10	11	NATL. SCHOOL NURSE APPRECIATION DAY GRADES 5 & 6 SPRING CHORAL CONCERT 7:00pm (MS Aud) 12	GRADES 7 & 8 SPRING CHORAL CONCERT 7:00pm (MS Aud) 13	MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL SPRING JAZZ BAND CONCERT 7:00pm (HS Aud) 14	ARMED FORCES DAY 15

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL BOSSSES' WEEK May 17-21	ACADEMIC HONORS CEREMONY: Middle School 5:00pm - Reception 5:30pm - Ceremony (at HS) <i>Keystone Exams Testing Window: May 17-28 →</i>		Title I PAC & PTO Meeting 5:30pm MIDDLE SCHOOL 6th, 7th & 8th Grade SPRING BAND CONCERT 7:00pm (MS Aud)	HIGH SCHOOL SPRING CHORAL CONCERT 7:00pm (HS Aud)		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	4th & 5th Grade SPRING BAND CONCERTS 4th Gr - 6:00pm (HES Aud) 5th Gr - 7:00pm (HES Aud)	27	28	29
30	MEMORIAL DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED	31				



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May 2021





June 2021


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Highlands School District

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - HALF DAY Teacher Clerical - PM HS: 11:00am dismissal MS: 11:30am dismissal K-4: 12:10pm dismissal 53rd Annual COMMENCEMENT Class of 2021 6:00pm - Stadium	4	5 SAT I&II - Gr. 11/12
		Report Cards Available Online (Power School)				ACT Test - Gr. 11/12
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 FLAG DAY	15	16	17	18	19 KENNYWOOD SCHOOL PICNIC

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



Framing the
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June 2021



July 2021

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Highlands School District

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
INDEPENDENCE DAY						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						ACT Test - Gr. 11/12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Keystone Exams Testing Window: July 26-30 →					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						





August 2021

Highlands School District

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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				

Highlands Athletics

Drew Karpen, Athletic Director
dkarpen@goldenrams.com

Jaye Misejka, Athletic Office Secretary
jmisejka@goldenrams.com

724-226-2400

Find Highlands
Athletics on



**All 2020-21 Fall, Winter & Spring
Sports Schedules will be available on
goldenramsathletics.org**



7th/8th Grade Team: UNDEFEATED! 2019-20



8th Grade Team: UNDEFEATED! 2019-20



Programs & Services

Including School Health Services & Procedures

Highlands Virtual Academy (HVA) Web-Based Education

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.

Highlands Virtual Academy (HVA) 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 utilizes the Edgenuity and Accelerate platforms to provide a high quality cyber program for your student.

Highlands students may enroll in Highlands Virtual Academy from Kindergarten through Grade 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 Highlands employees and teachers who are using Highlands curriculum. *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 additional information about enrollment, visit the district website at www.goldenrams.com/hva.

Gifted and Talented Education

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 the Special Education & Student Services offices at 724-226-2400.

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. Highlands Elementary School and Highlands Early Childhood Center are Schoolwide Title I buildings. For more information about the Title I Program, visit the district's website, www.goldenrams.com.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports

A Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) for Academics and Behavior is a whole-school, data-driven, prevention-based K-12 framework for improving learning outcomes for every student through a sequence of evidence-based practices and systems.

At Highlands, MTSS includes standards-aligned, culturally responsive and high quality core instruction, universal screening, data-based decision-making, tiered services and supports, family engagement, central/building level leadership and professional learning. MTSS represents a broad set of evidence-based practices intended to help ALL students meet with continuous academic and behavioral success.

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 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 and programs to students and their families. For more information, visit www.goldenrams.com.

SCHOOL NURSES

Shelly Mort, RN, CSN

Highlands High School, St. Joseph High School

Melissa Lentz, CSN

Highlands Middle School

To be named

Highlands Elementary, Early Childhood Center

Annual Health 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.



Programs & Services *continued*

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. 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.

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 of Dental Exam by 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 given 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 of Medical Exam by Family Physician

Each spring before the close of school, the Private Physician's Report of Physical Exam, 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 given 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 principal of the students who still have not returned the form and will schedule these students to receive a school physical exam during school hours, by the school doctor.

Summary of Medication Policy and Procedures

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

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.

Only the School Nurse, or other licensed health personnel, is solely responsible for administering medications to students. 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 at school. 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. 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. The complete Medication Policy may be viewed at any school building or online at www.goldenrams.com.

Re-Admission to School After Illness & Disease

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. 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 100.4 will be sent home and remain home until fever free (less than 100.4). Children with a fever less than 100.4 during the course of the school day will be permitted to rest and return to class provided they have no other symptoms of infection.

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Student Protocols

The **Decision Tree** shown at right will assist school officials in determining the proper procedure by which to address cases of exposure to and infection of COVID-19 in students. This tool is a baseline guide, and individual situations may and likely will involve nuances that require schools to go beyond the information provided in this tool to effectively mitigate each situation. In all cases, Highlands School District will be in contact the Allegheny County Health Department for additional guidance.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provides the following definitions for determining Covid-19 protocols:

Close Contact: Someone who was *within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes* starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Exposure: Having come into contact with a cause of, or possessing a characteristic that is a determinant of, a particular health problem.

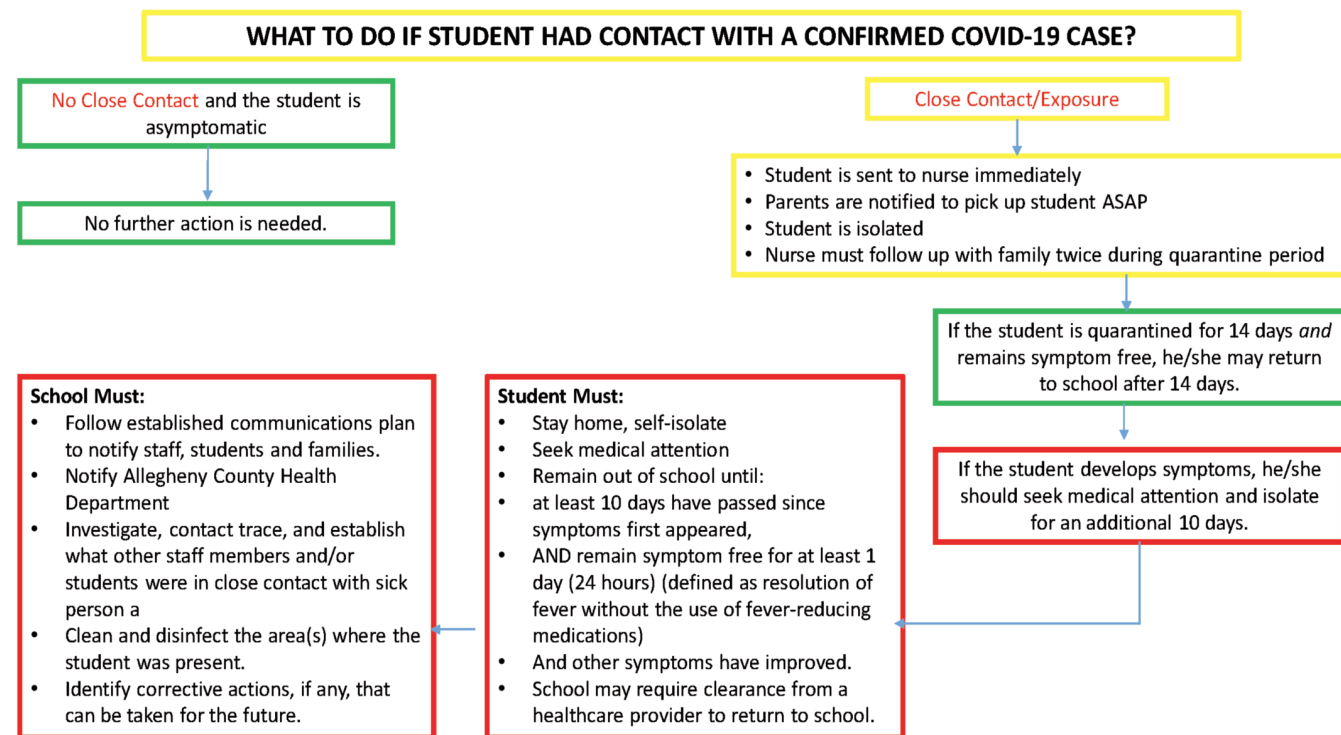
Isolation: Separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Quarantine: Separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

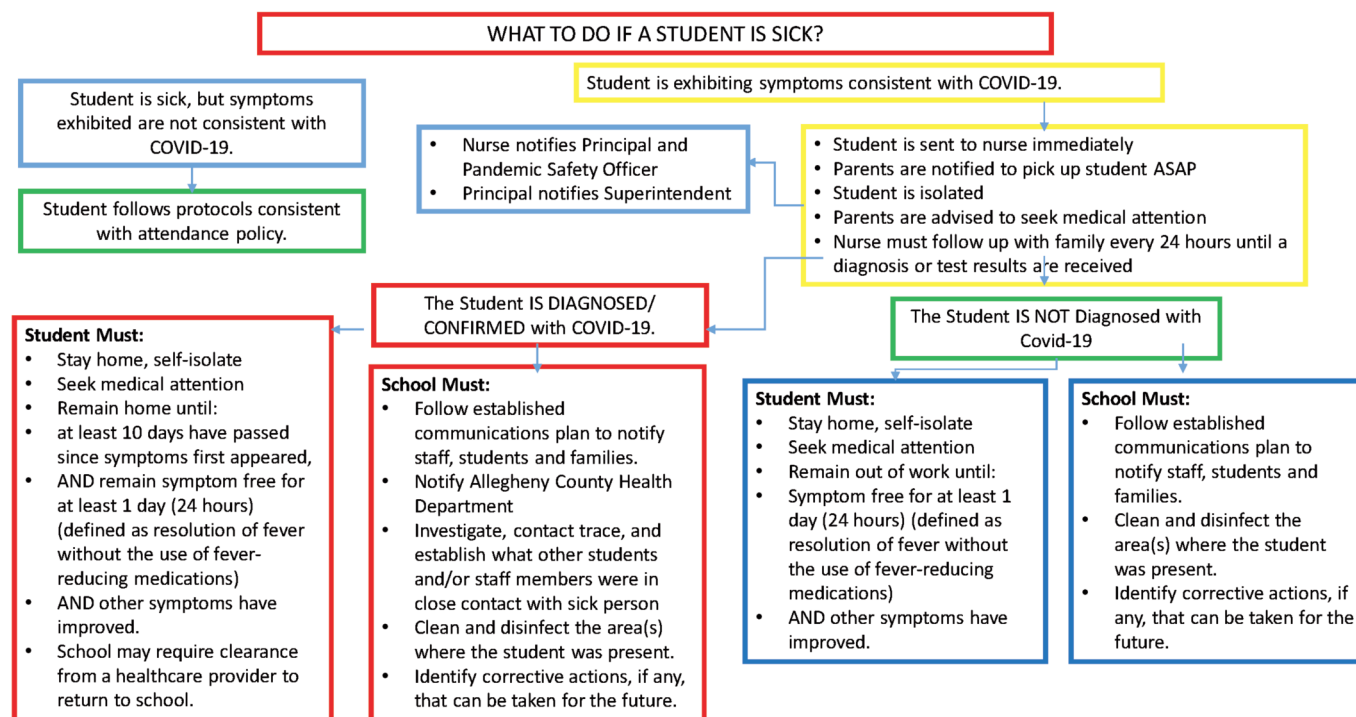
Covid-19 Symptoms (Source: CDC)

- Fever (100.4 and above)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Runny Nose
- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Please note:
Staff protocols and isolation/quarantine protocols are available in the entire Decision Tree document posted on www.goldenrams.com



Released: August 2020





Annual Notices

Annual Notice: Tobacco Use

The Board recognizes that tobacco 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 shall be defined as any tobacco product including lighted or unlighted cigars, cigarettes or pipes; any other lighted or unlighted smoking product or material, including electronic smoking devices; and smokeless tobacco in any form. Smoking electronic cigarettes regardless of whether or not they contain tobacco derivatives is also prohibited.

The Board prohibits possession, use or sale of tobacco 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 possession, use or sale of tobacco by students at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property. In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about the district's tobacco policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook, parent newsletters, posted notices, district website and other efficient methods. The Superintendent or designee may report incidents of possession, use or sale of tobacco by students on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving possession, use or sale of tobacco immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents of possession, use or sale of tobacco by students to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form. A student convicted of possessing or using tobacco in violation of this policy may be fined up to fifty dollars (\$50) plus court costs or admitted to alternative adjudication in lieu of imposition of a fine. A student found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with Board policy.

Annual Notice: Student Rights / Surveys

This notice 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.

Attendant upon the rights established for each student are certain responsibilities, which include regular attendance; conscientious effort in classroom work and homework; conformance to Board policies and school rules and regulations; respect for the rights of teachers, students, administrators and all others who are involved in the educational process; and expression of ideas and opinions in a respectful manner.

Surveys

Personal information means individually identifiable information, including a student's or parent's/guardian's first and last name; home or physical address, including street name and the name of the city or town; telephone number; or social security number.

For purposes of this policy, protected information, as addressed by the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), includes: political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent/guardian; mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family; sex behavior or attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships; legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers; religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent/guardian; income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

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

U.S. Department of Education Funded Surveys: No student shall be required, as part of any program funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, to submit to a survey, analysis or evaluation that reveals protected information without written parental consent for students under eighteen (18) years of age or written consent of emancipated students or those over eighteen (18) years of age. All instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, films, tapes or other supplementary material, that will be used in connection with any survey, analysis or evaluation as part of any program funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, shall be made available for inspection by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student.

Surveys Funded by Other Sources: Parents/Guardians shall be informed of the nature and scope of individual surveys and their relationship to the educational program of their child and the parent's/guardian's 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. Parents/Guardians shall be informed of their right to have their child excluded from any research studies or surveys conducted by entities other than a school entity without prior written consent.

Collection of Information for Marketing, Sales or Other Distribution Purposes: The district shall notify parents/guardians of any activities involving the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling, or otherwise providing the information to others for that purpose. The parent/guardian has the right to inspect the instrument used in collection of personal information for the purpose of marketing or selling that information and opt the student out of participating in any activity that results in the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for purposes of marketing or selling that information. This provision 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 or educational institutions, such as the following: recruiters, book clubs, curriculum and instructional materials used by schools, sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities, or student recognition programs. The district shall implement procedures to protect student identity and privacy when a survey containing one or more of the items listed under protected information is administered or distributed to a student and in the event of the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution purposes.

Student and Parent/Guardian Rights: Under federal law, the rights provided to parents/guardians under this policy transfer to the student when the student turns eighteen (18) years old or is an emancipated minor. These rights do not transfer under state law; therefore, parents/guardians retain their rights to receive notice and to inspect.

Annual Notice: Electronic Devices

The Board authorizes student possession of cell phones and other personal electronic devices, such as pagers, calculators, personal digital assistants (PDAs), laptop computers, handheld computers, cameras, MP3 players, mobile phones, tablets or any other devices designed to communicate, create or store information. While the district does not prohibit bringing these devices, the district does not recommend it.

Owners assume all risks of damage, theft, loss or misuse of such devices. Students may only be permitted to utilize such devices in the classroom with the consent of the teacher. 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.

The following shall also be prohibited while using such devices on school grounds: sending and/or displaying offensive messages; using obscene language; harassing, insulting or attacking others; violating copyright laws; using another individual's password/access codes; trespassing in digital files, work or folders. Cameras of any type shall be prohibited in restrooms, locker rooms, swimming pool areas or during testing. The Board prohibits possession of laser pointers and attachments by students in district buildings; on district property; on district buses and vehicles; and at school-sponsored activities.

Devices shall be powered off or silenced during the school day, unless otherwise permitted by district procedures, rules and/or regulations. Use of personal or district technology devices that disrupt the instructional day or includes possession, viewing, sending or sharing video or audio information which has sexual, violent or threatening content on school grounds, school events or school buses shall be prohibited and shall result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the electronic device.

Electronic devices shall include all devices that can take photographs; record audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages or images; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet. Examples of these electronic devices include, but shall not be limited to, radios, CD players, DVD players, handheld game consoles, mobile phones, tablets, and laptops, as well as any new technology developed with similar capabilities.

Electronic Images and Photographs: The Board prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and emailing. Because such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law, the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Off-Campus Activities: This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Code of Student Conduct if any of the following circumstances exist: The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to and from school or traveling to and from school-sponsored activities, whether or not via school district furnished transportation; the student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities; student expression or conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the expression or conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school; the conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, for example, a transaction conducted outside of school pursuant to an agreement made in school, that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if conducted in school; the conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property; there is otherwise a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

Continued on next page





Parents/Guardians and students shall sign the acceptable use waiver acknowledging review of Board policy, register applicable equipment with the district and sign related forms. Sending text, image, sound, video or files for the purpose of cheating shall be grounds for confiscation and/or inspection of transmitted data. If a device shall be confiscated, it shall only be released and/or returned to a parent/guardian.

Students may not: employ the district network for commercial or any noneducational purposes; intentionally waste resources, such as excessive downloading or creating viruses; exceptions to the 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) and other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

The building administrator may grant approval for possession and use of a telephone paging device/beeper by a student for the following reasons: student is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad; student has a need due to the medical condition of an immediate family member; other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

District staff shall not be authorized to share, distribute or download any content from a student's electronic device. If the district confiscates a student's device, it shall not be responsible for loss of data or damage to the device.

Annual Notice: Custody Issues

The Board recognizes that the support of parents/guardians shall be vital to a student's educational success. The district supports essential communication with parents/guardians and promotes cooperation among all parties who have a legitimate and legal interest in each student. The Board reserves the right to request a certified copy of the most recent court order or custody agreement governing the custody of the student. The district shall refer to the most recently issued court order or agreement until such time as a superseding order or agreement shall be submitted from the parent/guardian.

For the purposes of this policy, custodial parent/guardian shall mean the parent/guardian with whom the student lives and sleeps, the one who has physical custody, the one who assures compulsory attendance and the one who shall be called in an emergency.

It shall be the responsibility of parents/guardians living at two (2) addresses to notify the principal(s) of the student's schools, in writing, of current address and the effective date of a second parental address. The district shall inform parents/guardians aware of this responsibility through annual notification in district publications and/or correspondence.

Parents/Guardians shall be responsible to provide written authorization for the district to speak to designated others, for example, to grandparents, significant others of parents/guardians, etc., regarding students. District employees shall not share information about students with anyone other than a parent/guardian, unless such authorization shall be on file. Noncustodial parents/guardians possess the same right of access to a student during school hours as the custodial parent/guardian, as long as the custodial parent/guardian shall be notified. However, noncustodial parents/guardians may not remove a student from school without written consent of the custodial parent/guardian.

In the event that one (1) parent/guardian has been granted sole custody, the district shall deal exclusively with the parent/guardian on all matters. Unless one or both parents/guardians provide a document to the contrary, the district shall presume that the custodial person shall receive report cards, permission slips and other related notifications. 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 shall be shared, or in the event that an order pertaining to custody shall not exist, both parents/guardians have a right to exercise their rights under special education due process: Both parents/guardians shall be entitled to notices. Either parent/guardian may

object to an evaluation, notice of recommended educational placement, individual education plan or placement. Access to student records shall be in accordance with Board policy.

Annual Notice: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act: Student & 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 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 social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) *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 Highlands Administrative Center at 724-226-2400.

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 Lori P. Byron, Open Records Officer, Highlands School District, PO Box 288, Natrona Heights, PA 15065. 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

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs offered in the schools regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability.

The district shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities. The equitable distribution of district resources is one means the district shall use to ensure all students receive a quality education. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute handicaps and disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

The Board encourages students and third parties who have been subject to discrimination to promptly report such incidents to designated employees. The Board directs that complaints of discrimination shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action be taken when allegations are substantiated. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith charges of discrimination.

For information regarding services, activities, programs and facilities that are accessible to and usable by all 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.

Highlands Offers FREE School Meals for All Students

2020-21 School Year Update: Highlands will continue to offer FREE breakfast and lunch for all students. Students enrolled in the Hybrid model are able to receive grab and go meals for the days they are not scheduled to attend school in person. In addition, students enrolled in the Highlands Virtual Academy will be able to receive a week's worth of grab and go school meals. More specific information, including any changes to this plan, will be communicated to parents throughout the school year.

Highlands School District was approved as a district-wide free food program through the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act passed in 2010. The community eligibility allows all students to receive free breakfast and lunch items that appear on the school's monthly menu calendar. The purpose of this legislation and the program at Highlands is to improve overall student health by providing nutritious, healthy food. Parents do not need to fill out a Free/Reduced Lunch Application. Although meals are free, a la carte items and "seconds" must be purchased. My SchoolBucks accounts are used to charge students for such purchases. SchoolBucks balances carry over from year to year for a la carte items.

This program is the catalyst for improving nutritional guidelines in the Highlands cafes, resulting in meals with lower sodium, less fat and less added sugars. More fruits, vegetables and whole grains are served for student meals. Snacks offered at the a la carte are also more nutritious, but still delicious.

Food Services Director:

Jim Pritchard

724-226-2400 jpritchard@goldenrams.com





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 (FERPA)

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

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day Highlands SD receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask Highlands SD to amend a record should write the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and 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.

The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from 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 school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the [School] to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:
Family Policy Compliance Office - U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202

Notice of Intent to Disclose Directory Information

Highlands School District has designated the following information as directory information: Student's name; Participation in officially recognized activities and sports; Address; Weight and height of members of athletic teams; Telephone listing; Degrees, honors, and awards received; Electronic mail address; The most recent educational agency or institution attended; Photograph; Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (*A student's SSN, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose*); Date and place of birth; Major field of study; Dates of attendance; and Grade level.

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 the start of the school year. 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 (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, 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 (ED):
Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;

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

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

Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;

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 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:

Protected information surveys of students;

Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and

Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer to 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, in consultation with parents, 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. Highlands will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Highlands 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. Highlands will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. 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 an 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 ED; 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, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-8520.

School Bus Safety & Assignments

Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right. The safety of our students is of the utmost importance to the Highlands School District. Students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding school buses as are expected on school property or at school activities, functions, or events.

Highlands School District has three bus runs - Elementary, Middle and High School. **The district only schedules ONE bus assignment for your child.** Please note that students in Pre-K through grade 12 are not permitted to ride another bus other than the one(s) assigned for AM & PM at the beginning of the school year. If you move to another residence within the district during the school year, please contact your child's school to update your information and bus assignment. Transportation questions and concerns may be directed to secretary Kim Hines, khines@goldenrams.com or at 724-226-2400. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding regarding transportation.





Annual Notice: Programs for Exceptional Students Offered

Identification of Special Needs Children

According to state and federal special education regulations, annual public notice to parents of children who reside within the school district is required according to child find responsibilities. The Highlands School District is responsible for locating, identifying and educating children who are in need of special education. This notice shall inform all parents throughout the Highlands School District of the child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities and eligible young children. If a parent believes that their child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact the Student Services office at 724-226-2400. If anyone in the community is aware of a child with a disability such as intellectual disabilities, blindness, deafness or a physical disability who is not attending school, please notify Student Services at 724-226-2400.

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.

Children age three through the age of admission to first grade are entitled to Special Education and related services. Developmental delay is defined when a child who is less than the age of beginners and at least three years of age and is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (1) the child's score, on a developmental assessment device, on an assessment instrument which yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas, or (2) The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional and self-help. The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing services to preschool children ages three through five. For information, contact Project DART at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, 475 Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120, 412-394-5700.

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, intellectual disabilities, 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 protected handicapped students, as a group, are covered by Chapter 15 of the school code. 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.

Title I Parent Involvement Policy

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

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 and requirements of Title I.
3. Develop activities that promote the schools' 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 I 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.

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 parent involvement.

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.
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 feasible, in a language the parents/guardians can understand.



Title I Parent Involvement Policy continued

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. A 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 the 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, aiding families in the district.

School-Parental Compact

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 the 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 the 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/guardians, and reasonable access to staff.

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



The Highlands School Board of Directors 2020

The 2020 Highlands School Board Agenda Planning Meetings are held on the **second Monday of the each month** at 7:00pm and the Regular (Voting) School Board Meetings are held on the **third Monday of each month** at 7:00pm. Both meetings are held in the Highlands High School Library at 1500 Pacific Avenue, Natrona Heights, unless otherwise advertised in the local paper or posted on the website. The public is welcome to attend the meetings. Meeting agendas are posted on the district's website through BoardDocs. *In the event that meetings need to be held virtually, the opportunity for public participation will be provided through a livestream Zoom video linked through the web-based meeting agenda, as well as through a phone conference line.*

As per Board Policy 903, in order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board for residents and taxpayers to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation before the Board prior to official action by the Board. **Planning Meetings:** The Board shall require that all public comments related to the agenda items be made *at the end of the meeting*. **Voting Meetings:** The Board will accept public comments related to the agenda items at the *beginning of the meeting*, prior to voting on agenda items. School Board Meeting Highlights and School Board Policies may be found on the district website, www.goldenrams.com.



Bobbie Neese (Pres.)
Gene Witt (VP)
Kristie Babinsack

Debbie Beale
Robert Betts
Laura Butler

Kelli Canonge
Nicole Kocon
Judy Wisner



Framing the FUTURE



#RamPride

#R4L #Rams4Life





School Volunteers & Visitors

What You Need to Know About Volunteer Clearances and Visiting Schools

PLEASE NOTE: In accordance with the 2020-21 Health & Safety Plan for Reopening Schools, volunteers will not be utilized at this time within school buildings in order to minimize the number of adults and mitigate the potential spread of Covid-19. However, parents may still apply for and submit clearances for the district's volunteer program. Clearances are valid for 5 years.

Volunteers who wish to donate time as room parent, party helper, field trip chaperone, backstage assistants for performances, volunteer team coaches or any other volunteer position that includes *direct contact with children* must submit the proper clearances that are required under Act 153.

To become approved for the District Volunteer Program, you must submit the following to your child's building principal *PRIOR* to volunteering:

1. **PA State Criminal Record Check** (current within a year)
2. **PA Child Abuse History Clearance** (current within a year)
3. **Volunteer Affidavit Form** (available on goldenrams.com)
(if you've resided in PA for the past 10 years)
OR
FBI Federal Criminal History Report
(if you haven't lived in PA for the past 10 years)

Costs of the clearances from the state are waived for volunteers. If the federal clearance is required, the cost is the responsibility of the volunteer. **Clearances will need to be updated and resubmitted every FIVE years.** Please note that parents are permitted to attend award assemblies, and after-school events and performances on school property *without submitting clearances*.

For direct links to clearance sites and step-by-step directions, please visit our district website at www.goldenrams.com/volunteer

School Visitors

Visitors to all of our schools are required to check in through the Raptor system with a valid state-issued photo ID or Driver's License in order to enter the building. The Raptor system is a visitor log that also instantly alerts the school administrators of anyone who is a registered sex offender and anyone with custody or security issues.

PLEASE NOTE: In accordance with the 2020-21 Health & Safety Plan for Reopening Schools, only visitors who are **essential to school business will be permitted in the school, and they must make an appointment. Visitors delivering items to the school must do so in the vestibule only.**



Safe2Say Something PA is a youth violence prevention program run by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. The program teaches youth and adults how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, from individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and to "say something" BEFORE it is too late. **The crisis center sends all submissions to school administration and/or law enforcement for intervention.**

THREE WAYS TO SUBMIT AN ANONYMOUS TIP:

1. Call the tipline: 1-844-SAF2SAY (1-844-723-2729)
2. Use the website: www.safe2saypa.org
3. Use the mobile app available in iOS and Android stores (Safe2Say Something PA)

A Safe2Say link is also available on the goldenrams.com website and app.

Access Your Child's Grades, Attendance Online



Parents have the ability to access their child's grades, report cards and attendance through the school district's Power School portal. *If you are new to the school district or if you have not yet received an Access ID and Access Password for your child, please contact the office secretary at your child's school or the Highlands IT Department secretary at 724-226-2400.* Once you have your Access ID and Access Password, you will need to follow these steps:

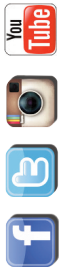
1. Click on the A+ GRADES icon on the goldenrams.com homepage, OR open the internet browser (Firefox or Chrome is preferred) on your computer and type <https://powerschool.goldenrams.com/public> into the address bar.
2. Parents / Guardians click the *Create Account* tab and *Create Account* button.
3. Enter your *Parent Account Details*.
4. In the *Link Students to Account* section: Enter the Student Name, Access ID and Access Password (exactly as they are given - both are case sensitive); and Relationship.
5. Click *Submit* at the bottom of that window.
6. Sign in again using your new account. It is advisable that you keep your username and password secure and not share it with anyone.
7. Remember to log off when you are finished.

What are the features in the Power School Parent Access Portal?

The Grades and Attendance tab will allow you to check assignments and scores by clicking on the blue percentage across from a class. To email the teacher a question or concern, please click the blue teacher's name link. The Grades History tab will show you the grades your child received in previous grading periods. The Teacher Comments tab is used to access current teacher comments for your child.

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Highlands School District
1500 Pacific Ave., P.O. Box 288
Natrona Heights, PA 15065
724-226-2400
www.goldenrams.com



ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Monique Mawhinney, Superintendent
Dr. Cathleen Cubelic, Assistant Superintendent
Lori P. Byron, CPA, Exec. Director of Business Affairs & Support Services
Catherine M. Russo, Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Funding Programs
Dr. Anne Rose & Amy Filipowski, Co-Directors of Student Services

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BOARD 2020

Bobbie Neese , President	Gene Witt , Vice President
Kristie Babinsack	Debbie Beale
Robert Betts	Laura Butler
Kelli Canonge	Nicole Koon
Judy Wisner	



2020-21 Highlands School District ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

*Special thanks to all of the Highlands staff members who submitted photos throughout the school year.
Sincere appreciation to Dicer Photos and Highlands parents for also providing photos for use in the calendar.*

This calendar is published annually by the Highlands School District. Calendar compiled, edited and designed by Jennifer Goldberg, Communications Coordinator.

